Wolfowitz offers more aid in exchange for MLSA

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Ping hits Senate report

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau
Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

"RAISE hell."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he would do this "in the floor of the Senate" to denounce the release of a report of three Senate committees recommending that kidnap-for-ransom and drug-trafficking charges be filed

PING/ A20

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House sympathizes with Drilon, adjourns

Vital gov't reform bills derailed by power play

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

URGENT, but no longer important—for the moment.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic reform agenda yesterday became the biggest casualty of the opposition's power play in the Senate that prompted an early adjournment of the first regular session of the 12th Congress.

A number of key reform measures being pushed by the President would have to be filed again when Congress convenes for its second regular session on July 22.

The House of Representatives adjourned amid riotous scenes on Tuesday after Speaker Jose de Venecia took the lead from Senate President Franklin Drilon, who called off the chamber's sessions on Monday. Both chambers were originally scheduled to adjourn on Thursday.

"There will be a slight delay (in the passage) of several measures that we were hoping would be passed," Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on

VITAL/ A4

Sonny O's move 'no big deal'

By Blanche S. Rivera, Carlito Pablo and Jhunnex Napallacan,
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE SUDDEN shift in the power balance in the Senate as a result of Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña's defection to the opposition would not affect business or political stability enough to harm the economy, said Makati Business Club president Guillermo Luz even as he dismissed the turmoil as resulting from certain senators being distracted by their political ambition.

"We should not confuse economic or political stability with the career of some politicians. We need to focus on the economy instead of the Senate if

SONNY/ A4

'What are we–the lapdogs of Senate?'

By Juliet Javellana and Christine Avendaño

THE HOUSE of Representatives erupted in turmoil yesterday after the administration coalition adjourned the session a few days ahead of schedule as a gesture of support for Senate President Franklin Drilon. The decision sparked a rowdy match with the House minority who fought to continue the session by calling its own roll call.

The usually-mild-mannered House minority leader, Rep. Carlos Padilla, angrily confronted Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. on the floor. "What you have done is illegal and immoral! Mr. Speaker, what kind of a House is this?" a red-faced Padilla shouted as De Venecia approached to pacify him. Padilla had to be restrained by other congressmen.

After Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez adjourned the session sine die, the House sergeant-at-arms swiftly spirited away the House mace, symbol of the House in session.

The sound system broadcasting the events on the floor to all offices and meeting rooms in the Batasan complex was also shut off, but opposition Rep. Didagen Dilangalen immediately rushed the sound booth.

"Who put it off? I will destroy that if you don't turn it back on," Dilangalen shouted in Filipino.

After the sound system was back in operation, members of

HOUSE/A20

HE'S BACK. Opposition Rep. Didagen Dilangalen (center) tries to delay the motion to adjourn the House sine die by raising a parliamentary inquiry, to no avail. Minutes later, the House erupts in bedlam as minority congressmen assail the majority decision.

Opposition senators continue session amid quibbling over chamber rules

By Cynthia Balana and Rocky Nazareno

CALLING themselves the "true Senate," opposition senators yesterday held a session for the second straight day—a day after Senate President Franklin Drilon had adjourned the upper chamber "sine die."

They nullified a Drilon memorandum to Senate employees, passed four resolutions and elected a new Senate secretary, but Drilon said the session, which opened at 3 p.m., was "invalid" because the House of Representatives had already adjourned an hour before. ***(See related story.)***

Sen. Blas Ople, whom the "new majority" elected Senate president pro tempore on Monday, presided over the session, with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. acting as the new majority leader.

On the suggestion of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Ople immediately declared Drilon's memorandum, which informed Senate employees of the sine die adjournment, null and void.

Sine die, which means without a day, is the legislative tradition of stopping the clock, and signals the start of the longest adjournment in the legislative calendar, that between the end of one regular session and the

OPPOSITION/ A20

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With their faces blackened to dramatize the fact that high PPA charges are burning not only their pockets but also their bodies, two members of the militant groups Akbayan and Alliance of Progressive Labor tie themselves to the main gate of Manila Electric Co. on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City. More protests against the PPA are scheduled today.

'Patriotism appreciative of global interdependence'

By Donna S. Cueto

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

WILL the introduction of Makabayan in the restructured Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) produce socially aware and nationalistic students?

The Department of Education believes so, saying that the "unifying principle for the diverse values" in this learning area is "love of country."

"Makabayan will promote a constructive or healthy patriotism, which is neither hostile nor isolationist toward other nations but appreciative of global interdependence," DepEd says.

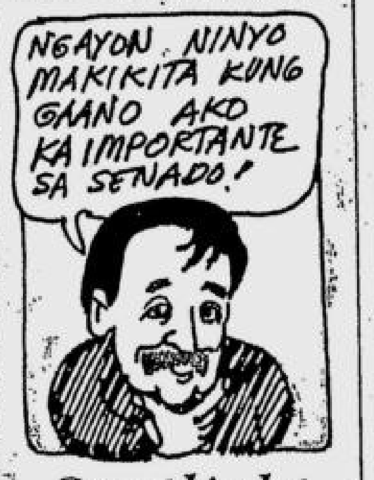
Critics believe otherwise. They note that Social Studies, formerly a core subject area that includes History, has been "diluted" and lumped with other Makabayan subjects like Music, Culture, Health and Physical Education, Technology and Home Economics, and Values education.

The time for Social Studies is now less than that allotted for each of the four other learning areas—Filipino, English, Science and Mathematics.

But DepEd says that among the five learning areas in the BEC it is Makabayan that "lays the most stress on the development of social awareness, empathy and a firm commitment to the common good."

"Love of country serves as the unifying principle for the diverse values in the fifth learning area, which is thus called Pagkamakabayan or Makabayan for short. Love of country, which Andres Bonifacio described as "*banal na pag-ibig,*" serves as the highlight that radiates the rainbow-like diversity of values in this

PATRIOTISM/ A6



NGAYON NINYO MAKIKITA KUNG GAANO AKO KA IMPORTANTE SA SENADO!

Spotlight focuses on Revilla

By Cynthia D. Balana and Rocky Nazareno

SUDDENLY, Sen. Ramon Revilla has a chance to make a big difference in the Senate.

The stand of the actor-turned-politician on the opposition-led Senate reorganization is crucial

SPOTLIGHT/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE

BAKA KASUNOD NYAN BASES NA, HA?

Wolfowitz dangles aid carrot

By Norman Bordadora

UNITED States Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz has urged the Philippines to sign a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) is country, holding out the promise of a broad range of military assistance to come with the pact.

Wolfowitz, who was here over the weekend to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo and top defense officials, said the MLSA was "clearly in the interest of both countries" as it was important in facilitating cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

"I don't want to be presumptuous and tell the government of the Philippines what to do (but) we think the signing of that agreement will allow us to work more closely," Wolfowitz said at a news conference on Monday.

The proposed MLSA would allow the US to put up storage facilities in the Philippines in exchange for military assistance, including various equipment.

Earlier this year, militant groups and certain foreign affairs officials raised a ruckus over the issue, alleging that military leaders had already signed an MLSA with Washington granting basing rights to the US and the agreement was governing the presence of American troops here.

The MLSA was said to be a mere rehash of a proposed Acquisitions and Cross-Servicing Agreement that the country had rejected in the early 1990s.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has so far remained silent on the latest US plan to expand the scope of its security assistance to the Philippines, particularly in combating terrorism.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona is in Spain attending the Asean-European Union Meeting of Foreign Ministers and was unavailable for comment.

'Here to help'

"Our aim is not just to defeat terrorists but to build a foundation of a just, peaceful and tolerant society. We're here to help," Wolfowitz said.

"We're very much committed to helping the government across the board in what is really a long-term challenge, not just for the sake of peace and order but also for what is essential for moving forward on some issues that terrorists breed off of," he added.

He said more US assistance would be forthcoming in the form of military equipment, education and training programs, and financing.

He said these were some of the things he discussed with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"We discussed a very broad range of assistance that the US is providing and continues to provide or might provide in different forms, different qualities. There's already been an increase in education and training programs," Wolfowitz said.

Marching orders

Militant groups yesterday took issue with Wolfowitz's visit, claiming the US deputy defense secretary had issued "marching orders" to President Macapagal-Arroyo on the deployment of US troops in combat areas in Basilan.

"It is plain to see who is really calling the shots in the Balikatan 02-1," Renato Reyes, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Reyes claimed that President Macapagal has "willingly granted US demands that its military forces join their Filipino counterpart in actual combat against the Abu Sayyaf bandits."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said the Macapagalo administration was breaking its word that it would not allow US troops to engage in actual combat with the Abu Sayyaf and other military targets such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army.

He said it would just be a matter of time before Malacañang gives its approval and announces the extension of the Balikatan exercises.

"It's the actual plan all along. The President and her military advisers must have cooked up this strategy of slowly phasing in the US troops during her state visit to the US last November," he said.

Dangerous ground

Beltran called on his colleagues in the House and the Senate to oppose the alleged deal to extend the Balikatan 02-1 exercises and increase the number of US troops in the country.

He said the President was treading on very dangerous ground by campaigning for the extension of the Balikatan exercises and the direct involvement of US troops in combat. ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Nationwide blackout to mark PPA protest

NATIONWIDE street demonstrations and a blackout at 9 p.m. will mark today's day of protest against the Purchased Power Agreement in electricity bills.

This was announced by People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power), a broad coalition of civil groups.

"We urge consumers to join today's protest against the much-hated PPA and the more than 200 percent rate increase being sought by Meralco. Intolerably high electric rates, government irresponsibility, monopoly and greed compel all of us to do so," said Power spokesperson Lolita Donato.

Donato said the latest Meralco billings showed an increase in the PPA charge, in contrast to President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent order to slice the levy.

"*Mas lumaki ang* bills (Our bills rose). This is proof the government is doing nothing but lie on the issue," Donato said.

Donato said today's protest actions will include a motorcade originating at the Quezon Memorial Circle at 9 a.m., a march by an estimated 5,000 protesters to Mendiola where a rally will be held at 5 p.m., a noise barrage at 6 p.m., and a nationwide protest blackout at 9 p.m. ***Gerald Lacuarta***

'Who really owns Meralco?'

By Christine O. Avendaño

DOES Meralco actually belong to the government?

Two congressmen pushing for a government takeover of the Manila Electric Company disclosed at a House hearing yesterday that the Lopezes, Meralco's major stockholders, had sold their shares to the government in 1973, during the administration of Ferdinand Marcos.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico claimed an "actual buyout" took place, and that the government paid P1.2 billion for the Lopezes' 33 percent share in the electricity distribution firm.

"I don't know why the government returned the holdings during the term of President Corazon Aquino," Suplico said.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos told the INQUIRER that she knew about the sale. "Meralco belongs to the Filipino people," she said.

During the House committee on energy's hearing on high electric rates yesterday, Beltran produced three letters written by the late Eugenio Lopez in 1973, dated Feb.19, March 20, and Sept.17, and addressed to President Marcos.

But a closer perusal of the first letter showed that Lopez really offered to sell his family's shares to a cooperative composed of Meralco employees and customers that the government would help organize.

Suplico admitted the letters were confusing, but he said he had a source from the Marcos camp who confirmed the government's purchase of the Lopez shares.

During yesterday's hearing, Meralco president Jesus Francisco denied any knowledge of the alleged transaction. Suplico asked him to bring the power firm's stocks and transfer book to the next hearing tentatively set for next week.

Francisco said he might also bring a person who could answer questions on the matter, possibly one of Meralco's incumbent directors. He did not identify the person.

The solon pointed out that if Meralco was indeed owned by the government, then the government could scrap the controversial PPA (purchased power adjustment) charges. He said this also meant the government also owned other Meralco investments.

If their theory is proven right, Suplico said, there would be no need for the House bill he and 37 other congressmen filed earlier seeking a government takeover of Meralco.

It was not the first time that ownership of the Lopezes' shares in Meralco was questioned. In a speech before the People's Consultative Assembly last May 22, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said that during the martial law period, the generation assets of Meralco were sold to the National Power Corp.

For these assets, Enrile said, "Meralco received from the NPC between P900 million (and) P1 billion."

Meanwhile, a multi-sectoral group composed of some 500 urban poor yesterday marked a National Day of Protest against the PPA with a "boat picket." The unique demonstration was held at the Hopewell Power Plant in Navotas.

In a statement, Jess Panis, chair of the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod (KPML) said the power plant symbolized the "onerous contracts entered into by the Ramos administration with independent power producers."

The peaceful protest almost ended in tragedy when one of 50 boats in the picket, with about eight teenage passengers, capsized. Don Pangan, member of Sanlakas, said the boys and girls were rescued by their companions. ***With Ronnel W. Domingo and Tina Santos***

All policemen to undergo retraining after Pasay flub

AS a result of the well-documented bungling by 19 Pasay City policemen of Friday's bloody hostage-taking incident, all of the country's 107,000 policemen will undergo re-training in crisis management.

Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina made the clarification yesterday after an incensed Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad protested the impending relief of the city's entire police force, calling it an "over-reaction."

Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza ordered the replacement and retraining of the city's 341 cops three days after the hostage tragedy in the Philtranco bus station.

"It's not only in Pasay," Espina said. "The retraining modules will be replicated in all districts (of Metro Manila) and later in all police units nationwide."

Besides, the Pasay policemen will be sent back to their original assignments after the month-long retraining, according to Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez of the Southern Police District (SPD) said he would personally recommend the reinstallation, "because they know their city best."

Gutierrez said that beginning June 17, the entire Pasay police force will attend the retraining together, after their relief by new graduates of the NCRPO. The policemen will surrender their firearms to the SPD.

Espina maintained there was no need to inform Mayor Trinidad of the PNP's decision. "It was not a regular situation," he said.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide have been filed against the 19 policemen, including their chief, Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna.

Sen. Robert Barbers has filed a resolution asking the PNP to indemnify the family of the victim 4-year-old Dexter Balana in the amount of P5 million. Espina said, "If that's an order from higher authorities, we will comply."

Investigators yesterday staged a reenactment of the two-hour hostage drama, which ended in the death of Balala and hostage-taker Diomedes Talvo.

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AFP calls reward system a success

By Martin P. Marfil

THE MILITARY yesterday described the administration's own bounty system of P100 million against the Abu Sayyaf as a "success," despite the continued evasion of capture by the terror group that is holding three hostages.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed a directive on May 28 last year setting aside P100 million as a reward for the capture or killing of Abu Sayyaf leaders. Eight of the band's top leaders each got a P5-million prize on their heads. Lesser leaders and members were worth between P150,000 to P1 million each.

Last week, the United States government put up its own reward system offering up $5 million for the death or capture of the same Abu Sayyaf leaders.

"Definitely the $5 million will help. Our reward system of P100 million was successful, so perhaps the $5 million will help," said Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, AFP spokesperson.

Purificacion said the $5-million reward has brought a torrent of information to the Philippine military, which is passing the information to the US Embassy.

But when asked how many Abu Sayyaf leaders have been captured under the government's bounty system, Purificacion said: "We have at least two, only two big ones, the others were smaller..."

He named one of them as Nadzmi Sabdulla, alias Commander Global, who was arrested in General Santos City one month after the reward system was implemented.

The other big fish, he said, was Abu Muslim Alghazie, who was arrested last month. While Global had a P5-million prize on his head, Purificacion said the same amount is being proposed for Alghazie's capture.

Records showed 16 other Abu Sayyaf subcommanders, with prizes of P1 million each, and 10 others worth P150,000 each, were picked up separately since last year.

New kidnap gang members killed; Indians go missing

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Four persons were killed in early morning violence involving members of the Abu Sufia group, an emerging kidnap-for-ransom gang, in Maitum, Sarangani, on Monday.

Six others were wounded in the incident, according to Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson.

Col. Agustin Demaala, Task Force Gensan chief and 601st Brigade deputy commander here, said three of the bandits were killed in a subsequent encounter with soldiers.

He identified the slain suspects as Max Binago and a certain Sultan. The third suspect was unidentified.

Binago was one of the suspects in the kidnapping of Korean national Jae Keon-yoon and his Filipino business partner, Carlos Belonio, on Feb. 26 at the boundary of Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

Ando said the bandits also fired at an ambulance carrying three soldiers and a Cafgu militiaman when it passed Sitio Takal.

The driver of the ambulance, identified as Mama Masukat, was killed.

As this developed, five Indian nationals with Pakistani passports have been reported missing in Mindanao.

Records of the Bureau of Immigration showed Langa Isamel Husain Budha, Tatel Mehbud Adam Hamed, Candia Ahmed Ibrahim, Sinajbha Ibrahim Farat and Yacop Bhai Ibrahim Lijiya arrived in the Philippines on Feb. 10 as tourists.

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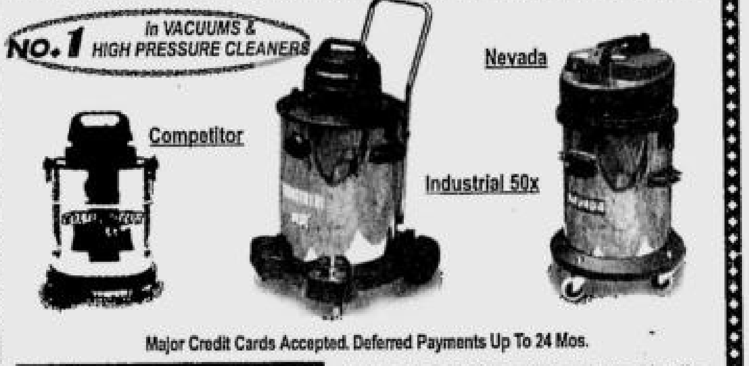

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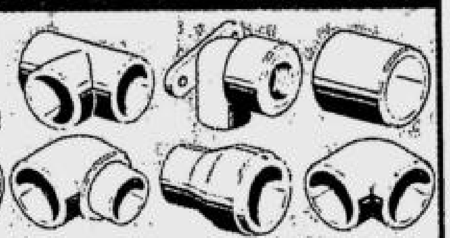

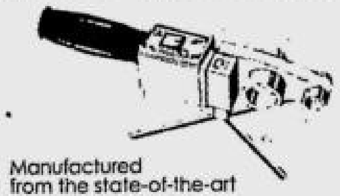

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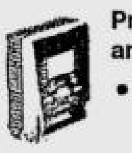

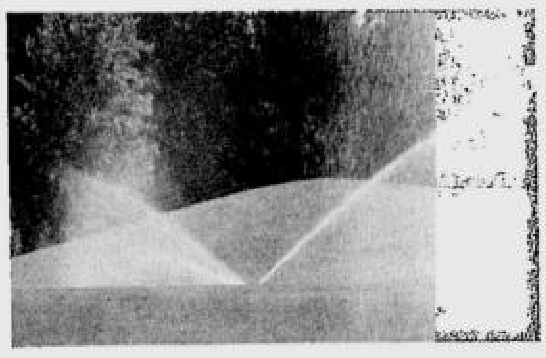

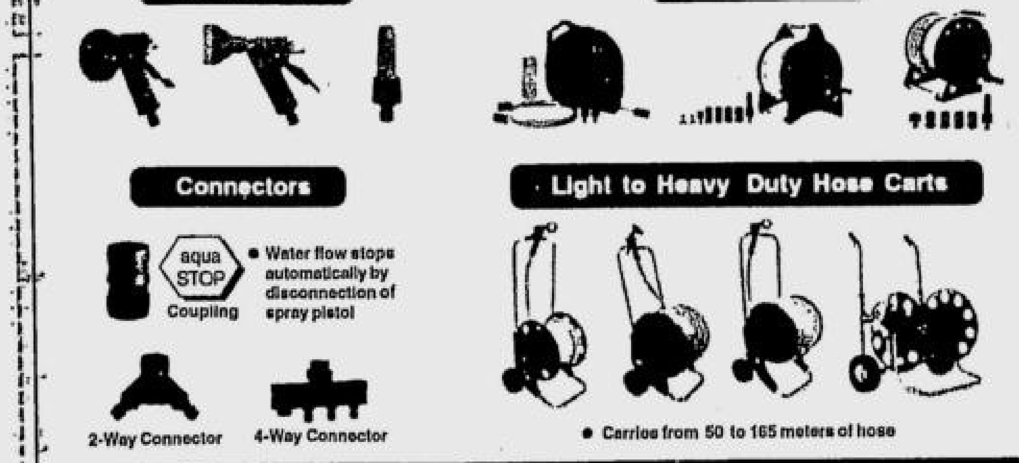

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Sonny O's move 'no big deal'

From page A1

we're serious about long-term growth," Luz said.

He warned big business to stay away from those politicians who can so easily shift loyalties in an obvious "positioning for the 2004 elections."

The business sector should not be a "turncoat" like some politically ambitious senators, he said.

"Businessmen should not be *balimbing* (turncoats). We support policies. We support ideas, legislation, not personalities," Luz said in an interview at the launch of the People vs Tancangco Movement yesterday.

Luz said political defections were to be "expected" and that of Osmeña's was "not important enough" to adversely affect economic stability.

"We have more important concerns than the chairmanship of the Senate. Don't get caught up in the campaign for 2004; that's still a long time from now," the MBC president said.

The weakest link

As Malacañang yesterday took stock of the situation in the Senate, Gabriel Claudio, the presidential adviser for legislative affairs, said the administration already had an inkling last week that Osmeña, being the "weakest link" in the Senate majority, would break.

Claudio said some members of the majority had tried to get in touch with Osmeña to "verify what was happening" but the Cebuano legislator had made himself scarce.

"For some time now, there had been speculations, reports that Osmeña, especially in light of recent issues and developments in the Senate, might be inclined to leave the majority," Claudio said in a briefing.

Whatever those issues were were now "moot and academic," he said.

Claudio said that he and Senate President Franklin Drilon had been talking about reports that there was something afoot and that it "centered" on Osmeña.

But Osmeña never gave any indication that he was "already plotting this move with other members of the opposition" when he attended a recent caucus with senators that President Macapagal-Arroyo had called, he said.

Claudio said the President was taking the latest turn of events in the Senate "very calmly and matter-of-factly."

"There was no sign whatsoever of any agitation or any anxiety," Claudio said.

No regrets

He dismissed suggestions that Osmeña, who had bolted the camp of deposed ex-President Joseph Estrada, defected to the opposition because he had not been getting enough attention from the administration.

"I don't think that is an accurate or fair judgment or even speculation to make," Claudio said. "I don't think he has been wanting of the attention of the administration."

Whatever Osmeña's reasons, "there is nothing that Malacañang can do" about them anymore, he said.

But Malacañang had no regrets about accepting Osmeña into the administration bloc despite his association with Estrada, Claudio said.

"Senator Osmeña has been a very productive member of the majority, at least when he was still part of it," Claudio said.

In a prepared statement, Claudio denied suggestions that Malacañang had tried to engineer a revamp in several Senate committees to push passage of some of its priority bills.

This was one of the reasons cited by the opposition in its attempted takeover of the Senate.

"There was never such a plot nor even such a thought," Claudio said.

Nothing new

In Cebu City, Osmeña's political bailiwick, leaders of the majority Lakas coalition said they were not surprised at Osmeña's actions.

"I have always expected that because our friend is really a turncoat. So (that is) nothing new," said Lakas Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez.

Martinez said this opinion was shared by many of her House colleagues.

"My colleagues in the House laughed when they heard that Sonny had defected to the opposition," she said.

Elberto Emphasis, Lakas deputy spokesperson for the Visayas, said the defection was no surprise as Osmeña's priority has always been his own interests and his record showed what kind of politician he was.

He recalled that Osmeña, though known to be an ally of Estrada, was the first to switch sides when Estrada was ousted in January 2000.

Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia said Osmeña's defection was not really unusual in the game of politics.

"I cannot blame Sonny. He has his own reasons. He is a politician. He has his own political interests to protect," Garcia said.

Garcia, the Lakas provincial chair, said Osmeña's defection would not affect Cebu politics nor would it change his own relationship with him.

Osmeña may not be the last administration senator to defect, however.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said over Cebu-based radio station dyLA that another administration senator would be joining their group.

He declined to name the senator.

If this happened, the opposition senators would have the number needed to oust Senate President Franklin Drilon, Pimentel said.

Thirteen senators are needed to change the leadership in the Senate.

Vital gov't reform bills derailed by power play

From page A1

legislative affairs, told reporters.

Claudio said Ms Macapagal was monitoring the situation but would not meddle in what she considered was an internal affair of the Senate.

The Senate squabble foiled the Macapagal administration's efforts to have a bill passed that would have given incentives to the formation of asset management companies designed to rid the banking system of billions of dollars of nonperforming loans.

"It's a pity that the special asset purpose vehicle bill was also affected," De Venecia told reporters.

The House-approved bill, pending in the Senate, sought to give incentives to the creation of private firms that would rid the banking sector of its bad-debt burden.

According to De Venecia, the enactment of the two bills would have generated billion of dollars in equity badly needed by the local economy.

The crisis also killed off at least one government revenue-enhancement measure that sought index excise taxes to inflation.

It also set back the deregulation of the power industry. Congress was not able to pass a bill granting a franchise to a transmission company that would be spun off from the state-run National Power Corp.

De Venecia said the bill would have generated $2 billion in revenue to pay off Napocor debts and lower the controversial purchased power adjustment charges slapped on consumers.

He said the House was "en route" to approving other important bills had the leadership crisis in the Senate not developed.

These include that creation of a Department of Housing that is expected to deal with the housing backlog and the establishment of countryside business enterprises that is expected to help 5 million farmers.

"My only regret is that some of the most important pieces of legislation approved by the House are still pending in the Senate," De Venecia said.

Even so, De Venecia said the President was due to sign into law in the next few days four significant measures approved by both chambers.

These are the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, the creation of the Film Development and Incentives Board, the increase in the rate base pay of AFP officers and enlisted personnel, and the New Plant Varieties Act. ***With reports from AFP and Reuters***

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Palawan Governor Joel T. Reyes

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Baragatan 2002
A Centennial Celebration of Palawan's Civil Government
JUNE 16-23, 2002

KASAYSAYAN, KULTURA, LIKAS-YAMAN AT PAMAHALAAN SA AGOS NG PANAHON
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PALAWAN, the country's last ecological frontier, is rolling out the red carpet for a week-long celebration to mark a milestone in its history: the 100 years of the founding of its civil government.

The civil government of Palawan was established by the Americans on June 23, 1902 with Major John Brown as the first appointed governor. In 1905, pursuant to Act No. 1363 of the Philippine Commission, the name of the province was changed from Paragua to Palawan and the capital was transferred from Cuyo to Puerto Princesa.

Under the leadership of the centennial governor, Gov. Joel T. Reyes, the Provincial Government of Palawan is going all out for a GRAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION starting June 16 and culminating on the anniversary day, June 23.

" We are all fortunate to be here to witness the centennial event of the establishment of the civil government of Palawan. So we are inviting everyone -- fellow Filipinos, friends, acquaintances, tourists, travellers here and abroad -- to come to Palawan for our centennial celebration which is billed Baragatan 2002," Gov. Reyes explains.

Baragatan is derived from a Cuyono word *bagat*, meaning to meet. Baragatan is a convergence and a rendezvous of Palawan's ethnic inhabitants and of those who have come to make the province their home. It will be a gathering of the Tagbanua, the Palaw'an, Tau't Bato, Ken-uys, Batak, Cuyonon, Agutaynon, Cagayanen, Muslim Molbog as well as the Ilonggos, Cebuanos, Ilokano, Tagalog, Bicolanos, Pampanguenos, Zamboanguenos, Waray and other cultural groups.

It will be an assemblage of Palawan's distinct yet diverse cultures, traditions, tribal practices, religious and ethnic backgrounds as well as a showcase of Palawan's agricultural crops, marine life, handicrafts and its tourism destinations. Baragatan will feature the best of each cultural group's and municipality's traditions and cultures, sharing their God-given talents, abundant fruits of the sea and the earth to everyone.

The theme of the centennial event is "Palawan: kasaysayan, kultura, likas-yaman at pamahalaan sa agos ng panahon 1902-2002". Following this theme, the myriad of activities lined-up will depict the richness and pageantry of Palawan's history; the uniqueness of its culture; the ecological biodiversity and the civil government whose task is to harness all these resources and potentials to steer the province to growth and economic development. "All these aspects are woven together toward the creation of a province that is unique yet diverse in many ways. The centennial event is the most appropriate time to celebrate and to thank the Almighty for the abundant blessings we have received through the years," adds Gov. Reyes.

Come to Palawan and celebrate with us the 100 years of our civil government. Acquaint yourself with Palawan's rich and colorful heritage. Experience the wonders of Palawan: where every island is an adventure. Join the tree-planting activities and other treats toward the preservation and conservation of the environment. Be part of the Provincial Government's initiatives onward to Palawan's sustainable growth.

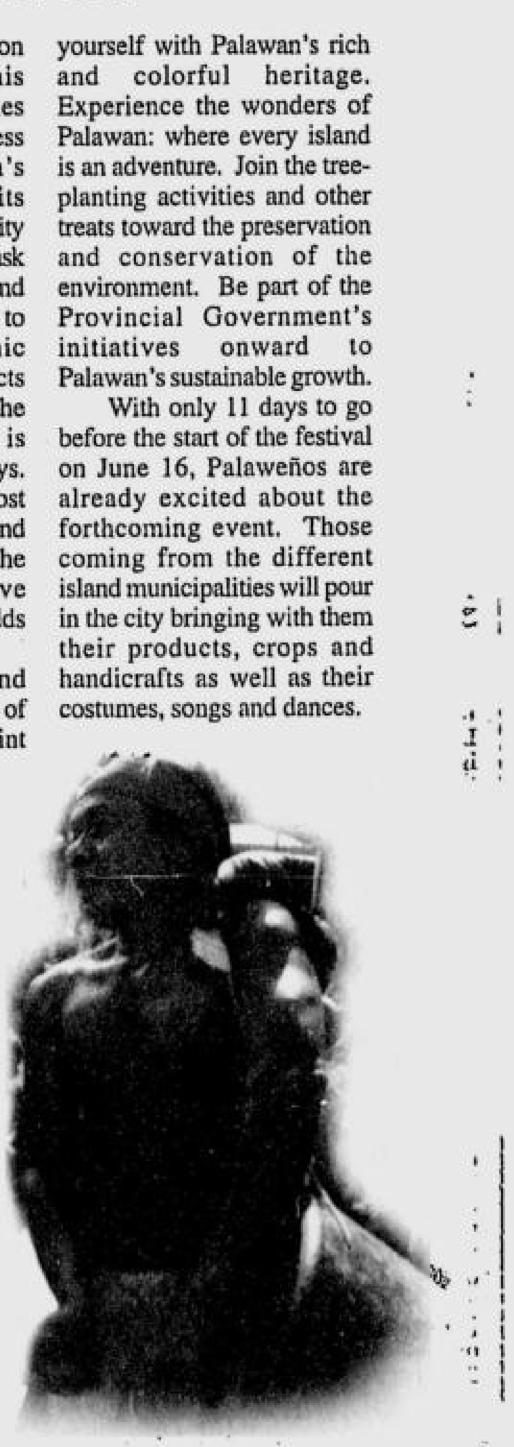
With only 11 days to go before the start of the festival on June 16, Palaweños are already excited about the forthcoming event. Those coming from the different island municipalities will pour in the city bringing with them their products, crops and handicrafts as well as their costumes, songs and dances.

BARAGATAN 2002 ACTIVITIES

June 16-23 LGU TRADE FAIR
Sale and display of agricultural crops, handicrafts, marine products, souvenir items and other unique products from the various municipalities of Palawan.
June 16 FLOAT PARADE
Palawan's history, culture, environment and government are artistically depicted in the floats of the different municipalities, national government agencies, NGOs and other groups.
June 17 GABI NG SINING AT KALINANGAN
A presentation of Palawan's indigenous and contemporary music using local musical instruments.
June 18 LGU CULTURAL SHOW
Featuring the unique yet diverse cultures and traditions of Palawan through song, dance and comical skits.
June 18 - 19 KAWANGIS NG BUWAN: DAMAR A Palaw'an modern-day epic by Dr. Arnie Estrobo of Quezon. Based on the life of Damar, a Palaw'an modern day hero who is also perceived as a demi-god.
June 19 JAMMING SA PARAISO
Environmental groups pay homage to Palawan's terrestrial and marine resources through music and songs.
June 22 PISTA NG KALIKASAN
Environmental protection and conservation is an integral part of the centennial celebration. Gov. Joel T. Reyes will lead Palaweños in the province-wide tree-planting, Pista ng Kalikasan, a Galing Pook award-winning program.
June 22 MUTYA NG PALAWAN - CORONATION NIGHT Palawan beauties vie for Mutya ng Palawan 2002.
June 23 STREET DANCING
Mardi gras along the main throughfare of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Participating groups composed of 75 performers made up of 25 musicians and 50 dancers will dance to the beating of drums and percussion instruments. First prize winner will get P300,000.00; second prize will receive P200,000.00 and the third prize winner, P100,000.00.
June 17-23 DECORACIONAN ADORNO SA BANWA
Search for the best decorated business establishment on Rizal Avenue in Puerto Princesa City.
June 17 -23 FOOD FESTIVAL
Treat yourself to sumptuous delicacies and culinary delights in the week-long festival.
June 17-23 JOBS FAIR
The Centennial Celebration will also be venue for those looking for job opportunities both domestic and overseas.
June 17-23 HERITAGE EXHIBIT
A mini-exhibit featuring dioramas of Palawan's cultural heritage at the entrance of the Provincial Capitol building lobby.
June 17-23 PINTURA GALLERY
Impressions of Palawan by local visual artists in a group exhibit billed 'Reflections'.
June 17-23 CAPITOL KABISIG
An exhibit of the thrust, functions and mandate of the different departments of the Provincial Government grouped into six sectoral clusters.

More activities are in store for all ages from fun-filled games, amateur sports competitions, entertainment extravaganza featuring movie and TV personalities, health services to trainings and educational programs. Its a total celebration of Palawan's history, culture, natural resources. Its the civil government in action.

For more details, call the Provincial Information Office at (048) 433 4566; e-mail at pio-pal@mozcom.com



GMA to climb Pinatubo today 'like any tourist'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—President Macapagal-Arroyo will scale Mt. Pinatubo via the Aeta village of Sta. Juliana here today, becoming the first Philippine President, and 6,659th tourist, to climb the volcano that erupted in 1991.

The trek, as the President has said, is her way of promoting the 1,400-foot high volcano as a major tourist destination.

The President is coming on the invitation of Levy Laus, Ford distributor in Northern Philippines and director of the Base Conversion Development Authority.

Mt. Pinatubo became an alternate destination to Mt. Pulag, which Ms Macapagal had earlier planned to climb.

She backed off after environmentalists worried about the effects her helicopter ride over the area and her big entourage would have on Mt. Pulag's flora and fauna.

The President's Pinatubo trek will be held seven days before the 11th anniversary of the volcano's last eruption, one of the biggest volcanic upheavals in the world in the past century.

The climb will be physically challenging for the nature-loving President, according to Ronaldo Tiotuico, Department of Tourism director in Central Luzon.

After arriving at the Philippine Army's Light Armory Brigade station here aboard the presidential helicopter at 6 a.m., Ms Macapagal will board a lahar-tested four-wheel drive vehicle over a rugged expanse of gray landscape.

At Sitio Dapili, where the vehicle access ends, she will begin the three-hour ascent to Pinatubo's summit. The President will walk through hills eroded by wind, cross the O'Donnel River, wade through balmy geothermal streams and hurdle trails of age-old sand, ash, mud and boulders.

At the summit, it is not known if she will swim in the three-kilometer crater lake that was formed after the 1991 eruption.

She plans to cross the Maraunot notch, though, on the Zambales side of the volcano, to check on the condition of a manmade canal built there last year.

A rubber boat from the Pampanga government was brought to the crater on Tuesday for the President's use, it was learned.

Tiotuico said the President has given instructions that she wants to be "treated like any other tourist."

"No special treatment, no special food. I'll eat what's available in the communities," the President reportedly said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 5, 2002
9th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 Tim 1:1-3, 6-12
Gospel: Mk 12:18-27

The Sadducees came to Jesus. Since they claim that there is no resurrection, they questioned him in this way, "Master, in the Scriptures Moses gave us this law: 'If anyone dies and leaves a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife and give her a child who will be considered the child of his deceased brother.' Now, there were seven brothers. The first married a wife, but he died without leaving any children. The second took the wife and he, too, died leaving no children. The same thing happened to the third. Finally the seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. Now, in the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

Jesus replied, "You could be wrong in this regard because you understand neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. When they rise from the dead, men and women do not marry but are like the angels in heaven.

Now, about the resurrection of the dead, have you never reflected on the chapter of the burning bush in the book of Moses? God said to him: *I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.* Now, he is the God, not of the dead but of the living. You are totally wrong."

Commentary

What is "resurrection"? When Jesus called the daughter of Jairus (Mk 5:21) and Lazarus (Jn 11:1) back to life, they only recovered the life they had before. After some time both had to die again. This was not really resurrection. There is "life after death" and something in us called "soul" survives. This belief is partly true but it is not the most important aspect. The resurrection points not to a survival of "something of us," but to a transformation and raising up of our whole person. This will be through grace and the work of God. It is impossible for us to imagine what our whole human being shall become after this transfiguration. But when it has taken place we shall understand the vital link between what we shall be then and what we are today.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Abandonment by a person holding public office—Generally speaking, a person holding a public office may abandon such office by non-user or acquiescence. Non-user refers to a neglect to use a right or privilege or to exercise an office. However, nonperformance does not constitute abandonment where such nonperformance results from temporary disability or from involuntary failure to perform. Abandonment may also result from an acquiescence by the officer in his wrongful removal or discharge, for instance, after a summary removal, an unreasonable delay by an officer illegally removed in taking steps to vindicate his rights may constitute an abandonment of the office. In this case, respondent's failure to perform her duties was involuntary and cannot be considered as acquiescence. In her letter to the petitioner, she claimed that she did not resign and she considered her termination from the service as illegal. She insisted on her reinstatement. Clearly, there was no abandonment of office. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Adiong v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 136480, December 4, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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‘Patriotism appreciative of global interdependence’

From page A1

learning area," says a DepEd primer on the new curriculum.

The seemingly unrelated disciplines within Makabayan can be represented by the acronym Sikap. S stands for Sibika, Sining; I for information (and Communication Technology); K for Kultura; AP for Araling Panlipunan, Pagpapahalaga, Pangkatawan, Pangkalusugan, Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan.

It was Education Secretary Raul Roco who thought of the Makabayan name. He said this was the "thematic thread for these disciplines."

DepEd maintains that Makabayan will cultivate in the learner "a healthy personal and national self-concept, which includes adequate understanding of Philippine history and genuine appreciation of our local cultures, crafts, arts, music and games."

It says schools will be allowed to "design and contextualize the implementation of Makabayan."

DepEd describes Makabayan's supposed attributes in glowing abstract terms.

"Among the learning areas, it will be the most experiential, interactive, interdisciplinary and value-laden (cultural, aesthetic, athletic, vocational, politico-economic and moral values)," the DepEd primer said.

"It will be the learning area that will provide the Filipino learner the quality time to demonstrate practical knowledge and life skills that have been gained, especially the skills of empathy, vocational efficiency, and problem-solving in daily life," it said.

Negation of nationalism

But the Education Network (E-NET) Philippines says DepEd's assessment of Makabayan and the new curriculum is not grounded on reality.

E-NET is a coalition of 110 civil society groups and institutions and is headed by Edicio de la Torre.

"The way the BEC was restructured, it resulted in the dilution, or worst, negation, of nationalism," E-NET said in a position paper.

"By integrating six other related subjects, the time allotted for Social Studies and/or History has been reduced substantially," E-NET said.

"Instead of strengthening nationalism, it will diffuse focus on this core value so that our people will become more vulnerable to the globalist thrust of deregulation, liberalization and privatization," E-NET secretary general Eric Torres said.

In the former curriculum, Social Studies/History was given equal treatment as English, Math, Science and Filipino, according to Torres.

But Virginia Miralao, executive director of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), agrees with DepEd on the "deloading" of the old curriculum.

She has no objections to the Makabayan learning area, saying that social studies is the main component of Makabayan and the other subjects are just "add-ons."

Miralao does not agree with allegations that the restructured curriculum would adversely affect Filipino children's sense of nationalism.

"It's not an argument. Even with the curriculum that we have now, we have so many criticisms about our sense of nationalism and history. We have no sense of civics. We have rules but there is a lot of criticism about Filipinos not being able to follow rules," the PSSC president said.

"We cannot today persist with that old-guard kind of nationalism that was there in the 1980s and 1970s because the world is changing," Miralao said.

She said the school system should not be teaching "closed minded nationalism."

This is also DepEd's view. The restructuring of the curriculum is in accordance with the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) for education.

The BEC is being implemented in the context of the "demands of globalization and the digital age" and "enhancement of multiple (skills)."

WB, ADB recommendations

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) claims that DepEd adopted the new BEC to comply with the recommendations of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

ACT says the ADB and World Bank recommended the streamlining of lower elementary curriculum particularly of Grades 1 and 2 and the revision of Science and Mathematics instruction in secondary education.

"Having too many subjects limits the extent to which teachers and students can focus on those basic skills critically important for good performance and success in the later grade levels," says the report of the Presidential Commission on Educational Reform's Committee on Information Technology, Science, Mathematics Education and Other Technologies.

"Research on student learning suggests that greater emphasis should be given to reading and communication skills and to understanding basic mathematical and scientific concepts," the report said.

It also noted that in secondary education Filipino students performed poorly in Math and Science as reflected in the National Secondary Achievement Test (NSAT) results of the last four years in which "students achieved mean percentage scores of only about 50 percent."

"The lowest scores were recorded in Science and Mathematics indicating that these are the most difficult subjects for students, and for which additional contact time may be needed and innovative teaching techniques devised to make them interesting and less daunting to students," it said.

Lowest worldwide

The Philippines ranked second to the lowest worldwide in international Science and Math tests, according to Miralao. "So those are the things that people must look into," she said.

The reduction of subjects is the trend worldwide, according to a DepEd official. In France, for example, basic education consists of only three subjects—Math, Science and Language.

DepEd's rationale for implementing the restructured BEC is the need to "raise the quality of the Filipino learners and graduates and (to) empower them for lifelong learning, which requires the attainment of functional literacy."

"Studies indicate that an overcrowded curriculum and its insufficient relevance to the diverse contexts of our learners hinder or delay the development of lifelong learning skills," the DepEd's executive summary of the BEC said.

Moratorium

For DepEd it's all systems go for the implementation of the new curriculum on June 17.

But E-NET is asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to "effect a one-year moratorium" on its implementation, saying that the 400,000 public school teachers are not yet prepared for the curriculum.

The Students, Teachers and Parents against the Millennium Curriculum! (STOP the Millennium Curriculum) says DepEd is implementing the curriculum without the benefit of "democratic consultation, pilot-testing, and even the bare minimum of adequate preparation."

"This is sheer amateurism—for which the classroom teachers and students will pay dearly," says Carol J. Almeda, convenor of STOP the Millennium Curriculum!

But Roco says that his department had consulted stakeholders in the education sector. "The curriculum is getting the support of UP, Ateneo," he said.

Miralao said objections to the curriculum were natural. "The process of change is really painful. Like it or not, there are sectors who would get hit because teachers are acting like interest groups. They are not homogenous, they are not of one mind," she said.

ACT said the restructured curriculum—if implemented in private schools—would result in many teachers whose subjects are affected by the Makabayan learning area losing their jobs.

Public school teachers are protected by Civil Service rules and cannot just be removed. But they could be transferred to other areas that lack teachers.

"The challenge really is in managing the reform. The public will continue to be critical, anti-everything that is being tried out," Miralao said.

She noted that Roco was being "criticized for being high-handed, (and for) ramming (the BEC) down their throats."

Mariano Piamonte, executive director of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines, said the teachers were not ready to implement the restructured curriculum.

"We're not talking of one institution, we're not talking of one school division here. We're talking of the entire nation,' Piamonte said.

But Efren Elane, director for extension of the University of Asia and the Pacific, said he was in favor of Roco's phasing of the restructured curriculum.

"We need educators who will see something positive in the program, not the problems. We need to see opportunities behind the program," Elane said.

Six values education experts interviewed by the INQUIRER feel that the restructured curriculum should be given a chance. Any inadequacies in the materials can be offset if teachers understand the concept of integration, according to them.

The question is "Do the teachers, by now, understand what they are really going to do?"

Spotlight . . .

From page A1

to the leadership struggle in the upper chamber.

With Revilla still in the United States recuperating from a spine operation, the Senate is split 12-11 in favor of the opposition.

If Revilla defects to the opposition, Franklin Drilon stands to lose the Senate presidency.

There were rumors earlier that Revilla was planning to do what Sen. John Osmeña did the other day: switch sides.

An opposition senator had even said that Revilla was likely to join them because he usually went with the flow.

Yesterday, the man who hardly participated in Senate debates answered telephone calls from Drilon and President Macapagal-Arroyo and assured them he was not defecting.

He also issued a statement, read to Senate reporters by his chief of staff, lawyer Icasiano Flores.

Revilla condemned what he called the "rump session" opposition senators held in his absence.

In an interview with RPN 9, Revilla said he would "never leave (Drilon's) side."

Revilla said Drilon had called him up and asked if he would follow Osmeña's suit.

"*Sinabi ko sa kanya na hindi ako lilipat. Hindi ko gagawin yun* (I told him I would not defect. I would not do that)," Revilla said.

Revilla said Ms Macapagal asked him the same question.

"*Huwag ko daw siyang pababayaan. Ang sagot ko naman, huwag siyang mag-alala* (She asked me not to abandon her. I told her she need not worry)," Revilla said.

In his statement, Revilla said: "I remain strongly committed to the leadership of Senate President Franklin Drilon."

"I wish to state in no uncertain terms my full support to the administration coalition in the Senate," he added.

Revilla said he was deeply hurt that the minority senators (who now call themselves the "new majority") could not even wait for him to completely recover and return home before they "stage(d) their political maneuvering."

"They must have realized where my loyalty stood and that they could not expect (me to) side with them," he said.

Sen. Robert Jaworski said he also talked yesterday to Revilla, his father-in-law, and discussed some "light" matters with him.

He said he did not inform Revilla of the Senate coup because the latter was still recuperating.

Jaworski said Revilla's absence during the Senate reorganization was "only incidental."

"The issue here is the defection of Sen. John Osmeña to our side," Jaworski said.

In an interview with GMA 7, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. laughed off speculations his father would switch to the opposition.

"My dad will stick it out with Lakas," the young Revilla said.

But his father has to come back first in time for the opening of the second regular session of the 12th Congress to make a difference.

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Anti-pollution drive to mark World Environment Day

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources will deploy today "Brigades Against Pollution" in Metro Manila malls, schools and parks as the nations joins more than 120 countries in celebrating World Environment Day with the theme "Give Earth A Chance."

The eco-army is being drafted into battle not only against pollution but also against public apathy over environmental issues, said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

"An informed and involved citizenry is our best line of defense," Alvarez said.

He said the brigades will distribute informational, educational and communication materials on environmental protection and conservation.

The teams will also give tips on how to help stop pollution, with special focus on urban degradation through simplified, easy-to-read and easy-to-understand pamphlets and handouts.

Among the malls the brigades are visiting are SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Coastal Mall, SM Makati, Price Smart, Glorietta, Sta. Lucia East, Eastwood City, Ever Gotesco Mall, Metropolis, Northridge Plaza, SM City North, Ever Gotesco Commonwealth, Tutuban Center and Festival Mall in Quezon City.

Alvarez said the DENR would replicate the Brigades Against Pollution project in public places throughout the country.

The secretary is leaving for Bali, Indonesia, today to attend the 4th Preparatory Committee Meeting ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September.

He will also be joining the Asean Ministers on the Environment forum to sign the Asean Agreement on Trans-boundary Haze Pollution aimed at addressing regional air pollution threats.

Alvarez said that among the programs the department will be pursuing this year is the International Year of the Mountains (IYM) project aimed at protecting and conserving forests and watersheds in the face of the El Niño threat.

Another project is a campaign for the country's strict compliance with the Montreal Protocol, which calls for the phase-out of destructive ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

The environment department is also urging the Senate to ratify immediately the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants banning the use and manufacture of 12 of the most lethal chemicals known to man.

Herrera; 77

PEDRO C. Herrera, retired operations chief of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. for the Visayas and Mindanao, passed away on June 3 in Cebu City after a lingering illness. He was 77.

He was the father-in-law of INQUIRER reporter Christine Herrera.

His remains lie at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel, Barangay Banilad, Mandaue City.

The funeral Mass will be held on June 8 at 10 a.m. also at Rolling Hills after which his remains will be cremated. His ashes will be brought to the Cebu Memorial Park in Barangay Banilad at 2 p.m.

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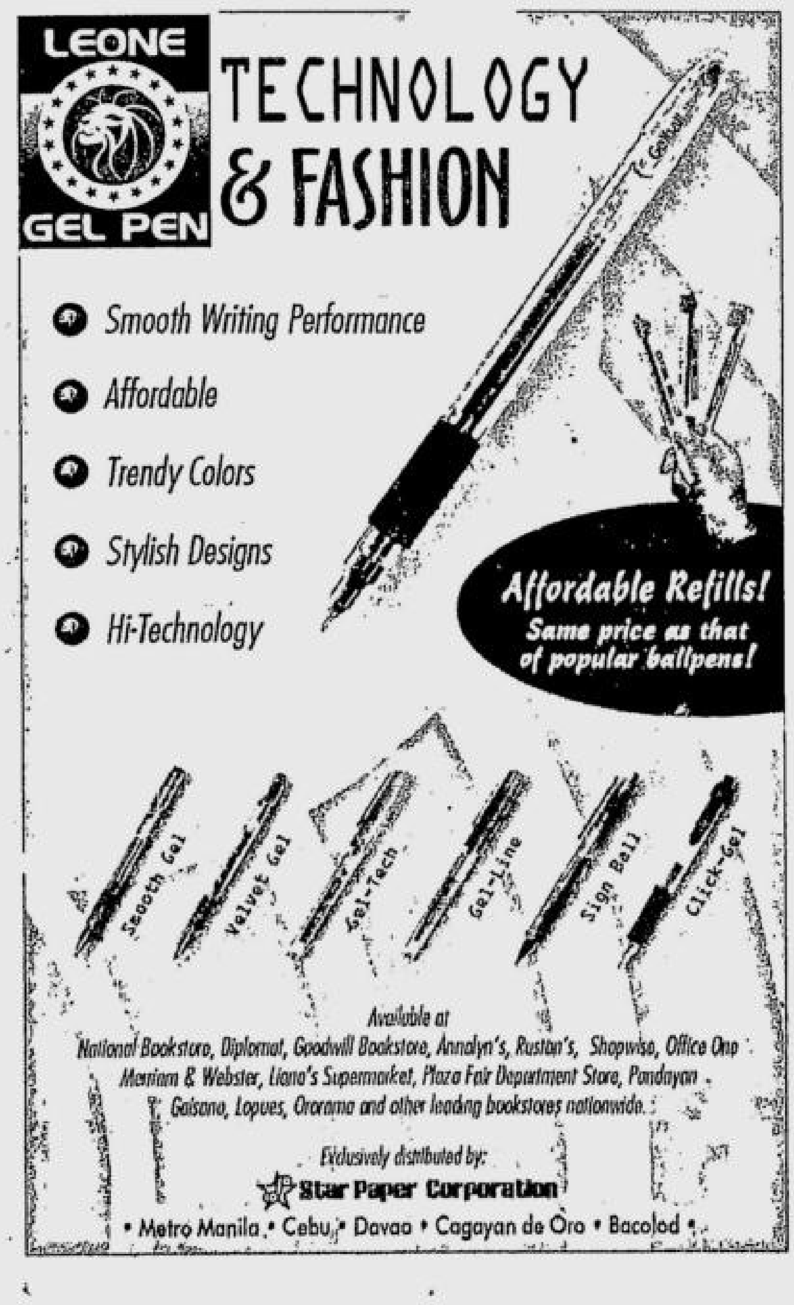

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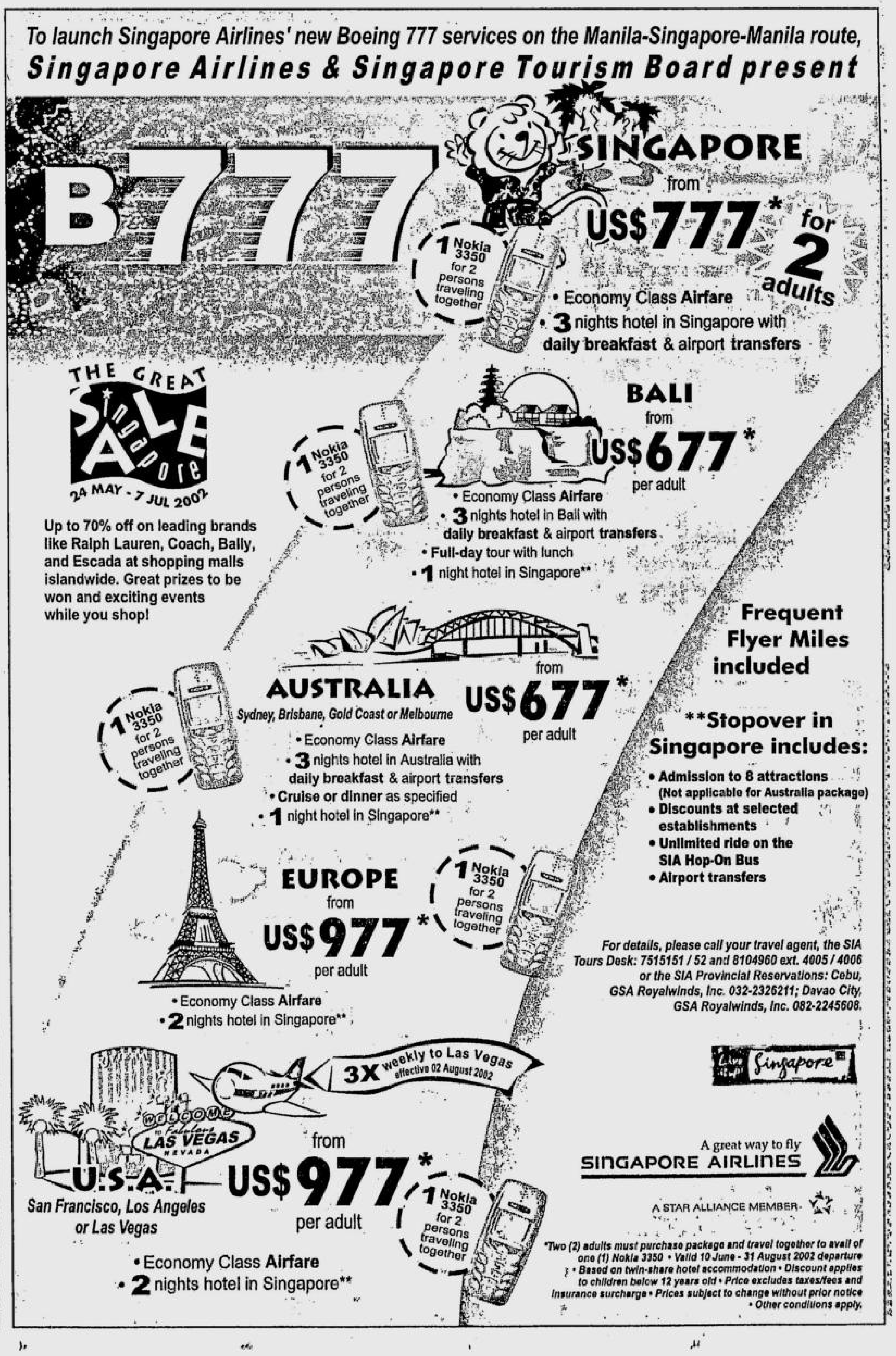

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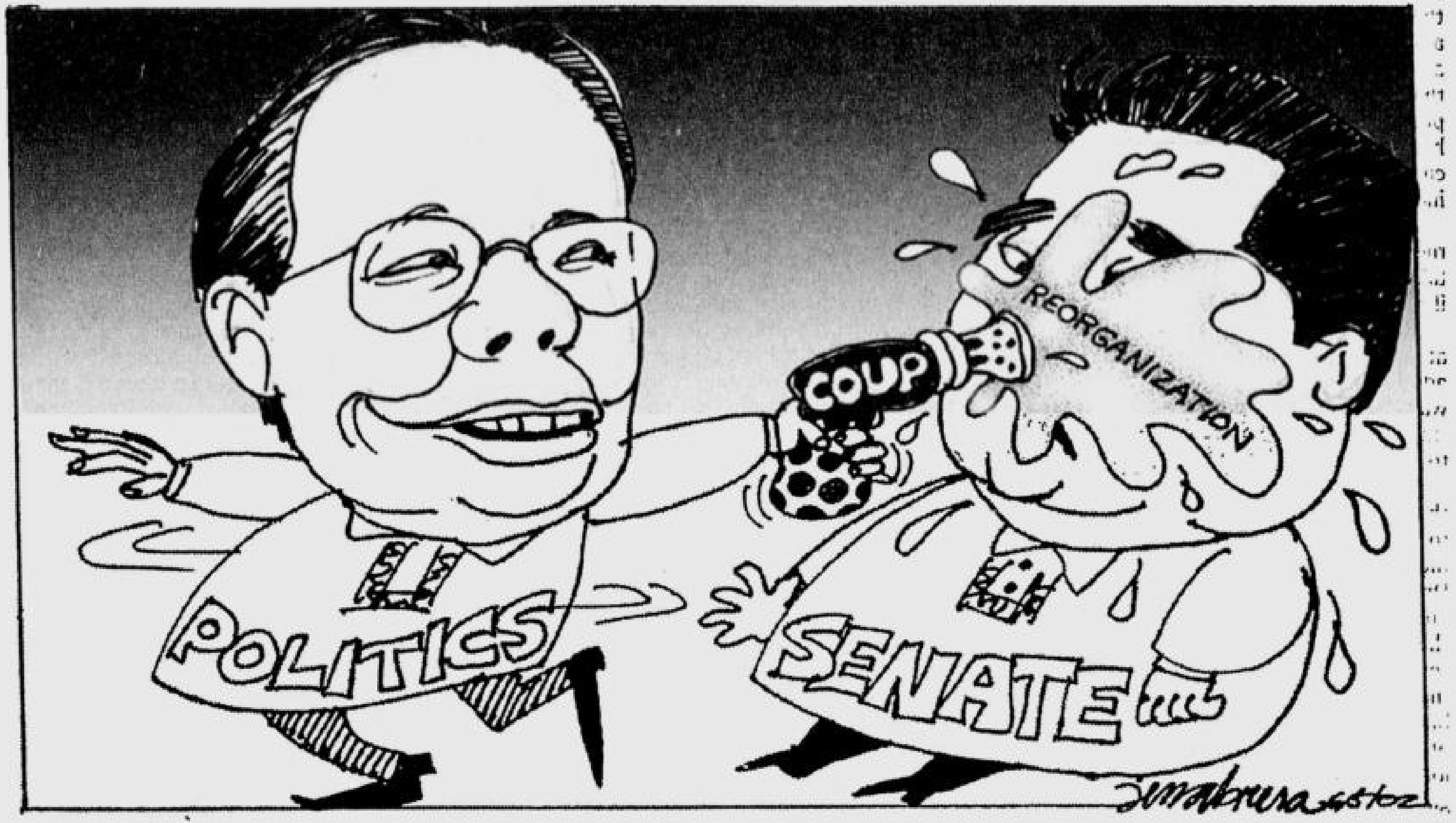

Bloody Keystone Cops

EDITORIAL

THE RELIEF of the entire Pasay City police for the botched operation that resulted in the killing of 4-year-old Dexter Balala in the hands of a deranged hostage-taker, and quite possibly in the hands of the police themselves, does not close the issue on probably the year's most damning indictment of the state of public safety.

To be sure, the decision of Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police to send the 341-strong force back to training does not do justice to Balala or even Diomedes Talvo, the hostage-taker who could have been spared from the drug-induced fatal harm he inflicted on Balala and himself had the police been alert enough and acted on time. It is merely a grotesque, even hilariously funny denouement to the Keystone-Cops regime that has been obtaining in the PNP at large. One could just imagine members of the PNP laughing good-humoredly at the antics of the Pasay cops and taunting them, "Back to school." All seem married to a conspiracy of slapstick.

Mendoza directed the relieved cops to take again a course in hostage-crisis management. About the May 31 incident, one could hardly talk of management. It had mismanagement written all over it. No one was in charge of the crisis; not even the city police chief, Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna, who acted as ground commander, was in charge. The crisis lasted two hours and even then, the police failed to secure the scene, allowing kibitzers and the rest of the public a ringside seat to the circus. Eager as ever to join the circus, some members of the broadcast media did a Ruther Batuigas by negotiating with the hostage-taker, with disastrous results, merely prolonging the agony of the victims and adding to the ignominy of public affairs-turned-show-biz television.

As we have said, the crisis lasted for two hours, but when it came to a head, all that the police could do was fire away in wild abandon. By the time the smoke had cleared, captor and captive lay dead. Balala had several bullet wounds in him, aside from the stab wounds inflicted by Talvo. One of the bullet wounds was close to Balala's heart. The PNP crime laboratory has not discounted the probability that the bullets killed Balala.

As for Talvo, his body was peppered with bullets. Those who had seen the footage of the impasse between him and the police agreed that he could have been disabled right there and then, before he could further harm Balala. But the police did not do this. Instead they showered him with lead. It was as if the police had relieved all their years of bungling, corruption and poor marksmanship on his puny body. If there was a case of police overkill, this should be it. As his relatives have claimed, Talvo was as much a victim in the botched operation as Balala.

From the foregoing, it should be clear that the Pasay police need not only to take again a course in hostage-crisis management. By their merciless blunder, they not only violated the rules of engagement, but also a host of other rules—on preventive force, commensurate force, and even human rights. The outlaw that they had been trained to catch stared them right at the face. The outlaw was they themselves.

One must consider that in the run-up to the Philtranco incident were several instances of police investigative and operational incompetence and overkill: Kuratong Baleleng, the death of Charlene Siy, the murder of Nida Blanca and several others. In all of these cases, there appeared to be a frightening abuse of force, either in the form of firepower (Baleleng and Siy) or investigative recklessness (Blanca). In all of these could be seen an utter lack of police intelligence and discernment.

So are the people to whom the public has entrusted its safety bound by the proper rules of operations and engagement? Are they governed by at least a modicum of sense and sensibility in order to control situations that tend to militate against public safety and order?

But since the police are bereft of such sense, as the Philtranco and other cases indicate, who will protect the public from a police grown increasingly fond of bloody slapstick?

More revelations on the Caloocan land scams

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

REMEMBER the P193-million swindle in Caloocan starting in 1990 when a valuable 2.2-hectare property beside the Bonifacio Monument, where now stands the Ever-Gotesco Grand Central mall, was transferred to Gotesco Investments without the city receiving a single centavo? Well, whoever masterminded this caper is even better than it appears. It turns out that Gotesco Investments not only was able to get this 2.2 hectares of prime land for free but also managed to get a P300-million loan from the Philippine National Bank, using the property as collateral—even before the title was transferred to it. Amazing!

Gotesco therefore was able to get P300 million for nothing. Even if it does not pay the loan and the mortgage on the property is foreclosed, it loses nothing. It didn't pay anything for the property. Brilliant!

According to an affidavit executed by Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo, the city register of deeds cancelled on April 15, 1998 Transfer Certificate of Title 54327 registered in the name of Caloocan City and in lieu thereof issued TCT 326321 in the name of Gotesco Investments Inc.

But it appears that on "June 11, 1990, prior to the sale of the property by (then Mayor Macario) Asistio Jr., Mr. Jose Go, (head of Gotesco Investments) managed to mortgage the city's property to the Philippine National Bank in the amount of P300 million." Really stupendous!

How did the owner's duplicate copy of TCT 54327 end up in the hands of private entities and individuals? Here lies another story.

* * *

According to Malonzo (the mayor, Rep. Edgar Erice, and NBI chief legal officer Roberto Aldaban were guest at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila forum), investigation showed that as of June 8, 1990, TCT 54327 was in the custody of administrative officer Luis Bacus. Bacus acknowledged having received it on that date.

But on Oct. 27, 1995, city development planning coordinator, architect Edmundo A. Sadis, wrote to the city general services officer thus:

"'In reference to your request regarding the owner's copy of TCT 54327 (Grand Central site) which was received by our office last June 8, 1990, we regret to inform you that said document was destroyed by fire that gutted our office last Oct. 1, 1994."

The previous city administration did not execute an affidavit of loss, let alone initiate reconstitution of the title before the proper courts. Why? Because the owner's duplicate copy of the title was not burned at all. It was intact, inside the vaults of the PNB where it had been mortgaged and annotated at 2 p.m. of Oct. 13, 1990, five days after Administrative Officer Bagus received it.

* * *

That's not all. Investigations tend to show that the whole thing was premeditated and meticulously planned. It started on June 16, 1983, when Gotesco Investments offered to the city government P10 million for the relocation and construction of the Cecilio Apostol Elementary School which was then on the site of the land in question, where now stands the Ever-Gotesco Grand Central mall.

The agreement reads: "the Second Party (Gotesco Investments), by his benevolence, has offered the sum of Ten Million (P10,000,000) pesos to relocate the school to a more suitable site for school purposes..."

At first blush, this provision gives the impression that the city is to be the recipient of a P10-million donation from Gotesco Investments out of the latter's benevolence. What benevolence?

What originally seemed to be a donation agreement turned out to be a lease contract. "As soon...as the school shall have been relocated and the site abandoned as such for school purposes..." reads the agreement, "The First Party (the City of Caloocan) agrees to lease the premises for twenty-five (25) years which may be renewed for another period of twenty-five (25) years at the option of the Second Party (Gotesco Investments)."

And the P10-million "donation" shall be applied to the monthly rentals. Gotesco will not pay any rental until the P10 million is exhausted. Not only that, the rentals didn't begin until three years after the lease contract was signed. The period of the lease was in effect extended to 28 years but Gotesco was to pay only for 25 years. What genius!

In 1990, Gotesco offered to buy the property and then Mayor Asistio signed a deed of sale for P6,000 per square meter, or for a total sum of P136,114,800. The Commission on Audit under Eufemio Domingo disapproved it because it was not subjected to a public bidding and the price was too low.

Four years later, when Domingo had been replaced by Celso Gangan as COA chair, Gotesco sought a reconsideration of the disapproval. After initially turning down the petition, the COA finally approved the sale at a slightly higher price without however insisting on a public bidding.

Mayor Malonzo refused to approve the sale. Gotesco went to court to force the issue. It submitted in court two personal checks, one for P182 million representing payment for the lot, and the other for P910,425 representing transfer fees. Gotesco also submitted a cashier's check purportedly for the payment of real estate taxes. (This check was later dishonored by the bank.) Provisional receipts and tax clearances were issued.

Based on these provisional receipts, the register of deeds issued a new title in the name of Gotesco Investments. Gotesco asked the court to dismiss the case and to withdraw the two personal checks. Both were granted.

Thus, Gotesco was able to have ownership of 2.2 hectares of prime property for free and was able to get a P300-million loan for that property. The people of Caloocan were swindled out of their patrimonial property.

What is surprising is that although this is a simple case (no payment was received for the property and therefore the deed of sale was void), the courts are taking a long time deciding it. At the city's petition, the regional trial court nullified the title. Gotesco appealed to the Court of Appeals which affirmed the RTC decision. Gotesco filed a motion for reconsideration and the CA turned around and reversed its own earlier decision. Caloocan appealed to the Supreme Court and it has been almost a year since then but the tribunal has not yet made up its mind.

Mentalities

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST off, my thanks to the letter-writers, including the many others whose letters I could not use yesterday for lack of space. Their thoughts have helped to refine mine.

I appreciate Melissa Atienza-Petri's point about our natural tendency to buy what we find in the places we visit to bring home. Of course if you're abroad, you won't think of buying Philippine products to bring home. You'll buy American sneakers, Belgian chocolates and Chinese jade. And you won't think of just saving all your dollars and spending your money here. You'll want to spend some of them to buy gifts, or *pasalubong*. Every visitor, except the most frugal or utilitarian one, thinks of taking home a souvenir or two, or a gift or two to give to kin or friend.

But the problem goes beyond souvenirs, or gifts. At the very least, there's the matter of scale. The *balikbayan* box, a veritable symbol of the Filipino personality, suggests so. It's not hard to find the PAL check-in counter in airports abroad. It's the one with the long queue that's barely moving because the staff is busy arguing with passengers over how much they should pay for the extra weight. Or arguing with passengers over how many bags they can hand-carry. It contrasts with other airline counters where the line flows easily, the passengers lugging precious few baggage.

This is not explained simply by the peculiarities of Philippine culture. Specifically, by the fact that we have a horde of relatives and an even bigger horde of friends who expect things from us and whom we must appease at risk of their taking offense, or "making *tampo*," as the *sosyal* put it. There is a difference in the attitude of most foreigners who visit here and bring home *pasalubong* and that of most of us who visit (or live in) foreign lands and bring home *pasalubong*. Foreigners want their friends or relatives to taste something new. We want our friends and relatives to taste something superior. Foreigners want their friends and relatives to catch the flavor of an exotic country. We want our friends and relatives to catch a glimpse of paradise.

Until a few years ago, many Filipinos abroad came home with boxes groaning from Spam and Libby's corned beef (you wonder how they managed to pass by the metal detectors). The practice tapered off not because we learned to prefer local versions but because those things suddenly materialized in duty-free shops and supermarkets. Indeed, to this day apples exert a magic well beyond their intrinsic worth (mangoes are infinitely more succulent). *Kawawa naman* the poor relatives and friends who are not able to have these things—that's the attitude that goes with the *pasalubong*. It is often explicitly articulated that way. They are things without which kin and friends should feel excessively deprived.

It's still pretty much "colonial mentality." Of course I have met people like Atienza-Petri and read letters from expatriates like her. Exile has made them more passionate about the country of their birth. At least it has made them look at goods with a more dispassionate eye, weighing them for their innate merits than their claims to "status." But though they are many, they are the exception, not the rule.

But as Cecil Peralta further suggests, the problem may have more to do with Filipinos in the Philippines than with Filipinos abroad. I agree. The thing with overseas Filipino workers is simply that they have the purchasing power, or more specifically the dollars, which makes the loss more dramatic. Gregorio Viterbo's calculations are at least something to think about: P40 billion a year with 1.5 million OFWs spending $1,000 a year on foreign goods. But clearly, so much more is lost with 75 million Filipinos buying imported goods while in the Philippines.

If the rich and middle-class Filipinos in particular will buy imported items even when they are more expensive than local ones, they will most certainly buy them when they are at par with local ones. And with globalization, they are fast becoming so, posing the most potent threats to local industry. The attitude can't possibly improve with things in popular culture, like the PBA, dramatizing the superiority of "imports." The word "import" has now also entered public consciousness that way. Someone plays better than others, "*import ang laro*"—he plays like an import. The word is synonymous with stronger, longer lasting (*babad sa laro*), better. Seemingly a minor thing, it has major consequences for the national attitude.

That's what makes *balikbayans* imbibe attitude to begin with, if indeed they did not set out for foreign shores already equipped with it. There is a local demand for the imported stuff. There's no sense regaling the natives with untold riches if the natives are not bedazzled by them.

Otelio Garcia is right: We've got to begin somewhere, and preferably now. We've got to make a breakthrough product that will catch world attention. Or probably more to the point, that will stoke national pride. But there's the rub, or the part where I get a little depressed. Nikon, as Garcia reveals, began as a lensmaker for the Japanese military, making lenses for bomber planes and artillery sights during World War II. Well, our military doesn't buy anything from local manufacturers, except uniforms, from which the procurers make a kickback. It prefers inheriting Vietnam War-vintage (or World War II?) equipment from the United States, courtesy of the Mutual Defense Treaty, like helicopters that keep crashing on rice paddies. I don't know that there's any local component in the weapons they're using in the Balikatan exercises right now. The local component seems to consist solely of services—and servility.

We'll have to do much better than Jollibee.

* * *

Comments at dequiros@vasia.com

A failed coup in the Senate

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FRAGILE balance of power in the Senate gave way on Monday when Sen. John Osmeña crossed over to the opposition, paving the way for the reorganization of the chamber. Osmeña's alignment with the administration senators had always been suspect, and it came as no surprise that he gave as an excuse for his defection the pretext that the administration majority (of 13) had failed to "exercise its constitutional role of check and balances and to protect the tradition of independence of the Senate"...blah, blah, blah.

We have become so used to the petulance and the unpredictability of Osmeña that it is hard to take seriously his explanation for switching even if it is couched in lofty terms.

Because of the precarious balance in the Senate, Senate President Franklin Drilon and the administration's control of the Senate have always been hostage to an idiosyncratic shift by a single member of the chamber. The opportunity to reorganize the chamber came last Monday.

There could be a dozen unstated reasons for the opposition's move to reorganize, in addition to Osmeña's nonsense, but the net effect of that move was to lead the Senate to an impasse. Drilon blunted the coup by adjourning the Senate *sine die*,—i.e., three days before the end of the regular session. According to opposition senators, the adjournment was illegal because the rules say a majority is required to adjourn, but Drilon said he adjourned the session because of lack of quorum. In any case, the House adjourned yesterday, giving rise to charges of illegal actions by both the administration and opposition in the Senate.

The opposition could do no more than continue the session yesterday, with only 12 of its members, clearly not enough to elect the Senate president and president pro tempore; under Section 2 of the Rules of the Senate, these officers "shall be elected by the majority vote of all its members" (meaning 24). A similar majority is also required to remove the Senate president and president pro tempore.

The opposition had hoped that it could seize control of the Senate with the vote of Sen. Ramon Revilla, but Revilla, who was in the hospital in Los Angeles recuperating from surgery, promptly dashed these hopes by declaring that he was staying in the administration coalition.

Clearly, the group that met in the pit of the Senate after the adjournment was a rump body. Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. needed no prompting to seize the initiative for the reorganization. Without being elected president pro tempore or majority leader, Pimentel called the rump session to order after Drilon declared it adjourned. His lame excuse was that his colleagues in the opposition asked him to call the session to order, saying there was an "absolute necessity to continue with its functions"—as though the Senate has not already wasted valuable time acting as inquisitor and investigator before it settled down to the task of legislating.

Pimentel thinks he is so important that the Senate will collapse without him. He justified his coup by saying that in the absence of Drilon, President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, he was the "only Senate officer (left) in the structure of the Senate leadership."

Pimentel has been itching to regain his post as Senate president during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada. He has taken an erratic path since he resigned the Senate presidency after voting for the opening of the second envelope. In reality, he never vacated the post. Pimentel made a bid for the Senate presidency of the new Senate after the May 2001 elections, but no one really knew where his loyalties were, indicating that his political fortunes rested on being a swing vote in an evenly divided Senate.

During the rump session, it is not clear in what capacity Sen. Blas Ople was presiding. He could not have been elected Senate president because 12 cannot elect that official. It is even less clear what role Pimentel was exercising—whether he was still minority leader or majority leader.

Yesterday, Drilon issued a memorandum to Senate employees, emphatically stating that "there has been no reorganization of the Senate" and "whatever so-called session convened and to be convened by the senators of the opposition block is invalid." He described the rump session called by the opposition as "illegal."

Under the rules of the Senate, Drilon said, the minority leader "does not have the authority to convene the Senate session. Under Section 6 of the rules of the Senate, in case of the temporary absence of the president or the president pro tempore, it is the majority leader or, in his absence, the assistant majority leader, or any member designated by the president who shall discharge the powers and duties of the president. The minority leader was not authorized and did not have authority under the rules of the Senate to convene the session."

It is likely that the rump session will adjourn on June 6, and the impasse will last until Congress reopens on July 22. The senators will buy time to renegotiate their alignments. It means that the coup attempt was a wasted effort. If you stage a coup and end up with a stalemate, you have lost it.

Guide to alternative 'EC'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOW much does this government value women? Does it respect women's rights? Does it respect women's right to bodily integrity, women's capacity to make informed and reasoned decisions about the most intimate matters? Would it knowingly and deliberately put women's health and lives at risk?

A government headed by the country's second woman President is expected to put special value on women. Especially since, I might add, the administration it succeeded was brought down, in part, by the president's cavalier attitude toward and treatment of women.

But far from upholding women's rights and interests, the Macapagal administration seems all-too-willing to sacrifice women just to appease backward and conservative elements of the Catholic Church.

Writing on the occasion of International Women's Health Day, WomenLead executive director Carolina Ruiz-Austria reflected on the situation of Afghan women who, after the fall of the repressive Taliban regime, still find themselves confined to the burqa and second-class status as citizens. But we don't have much to boast of, either. "Recent developments like the creeping government ban on contraceptives give me the feeling that Filipino women won't be in (such) a different situation soon," she writes.

"Just yesterday, I watched in utter dismay as the health secretary dismissed outright our letter-petition requesting for the case against emergency contraception to be reopened, calling Postinor an abortifacient. We never anticipated such a callous dismissal of such an important issue. After all, we all know that the absence of proper information and safe access to contraception and family planning have life threatening consequences for women..."

* * *

MANY issues have been raised against the Department of Health's (through the Bureau of Food and Drugs) decision to ban Postinor, the drug most commonly used in emergency contraception.

Among these, the lack of transparency and proper consultation among all concerned sectors, but especially the biggest stakeholders of all—women. Also being raised are equally crucial questions of science and medicine. For the fact is that the verdict is still out on "when life begins." But major international scientific bodies agree that a pregnancy commences only after successful implantation of a fertilized ovum. The view that "conception begins at fertilization" is obviously a minority scientific opinion.

Why is Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit hiding behind the Constitution when, as Ruiz-Austria points out, "noted constitutionalist, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. himself who was an active member of the Catholic lobby, states...that the Commission left it for science to specify when conception begins."

Adds Ruiz-Austria: "It's nothing short of frightening. How many more Filipino women will die of complications from unsafe abortions? How many more women will die during live birth because of the utter lack of primary health care to ensure healthy pregnancies?

"It is to our minds mind-boggling that an administration apparently obsessed with winning over sympathetic votes of confidence from the Catholic leadership will stoop so low as to engage in misinformation to implement a policy that has no legal, let alone moral, basis to stand on. In so saying, I do not think that even the Catholic hierarchy would and should sanction a lie."

* * *

WHILE Postinor is still banned, do Filipino women fearing an unwanted pregnancy after unprotected forced intercourse have no choice but to wait and see? Not really. The main ingredient of Postinor is Levonorgestrel, which is also found in many common brands of oral contraceptive pills, albeit in much lower doses.

Any woman in need of emergency contraception, then, need only take higher-than-usual dosages of oral contraceptives containing Levonorgestrel, but preferably under medical supervision.

Here then, from a medical source, are the locally available brands of oral contraceptive pills that can be used as emergency contraceptives:

Trust Pills (DKT)—four tablets taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex, then another four tablets after 12 hours; Nordiol (Wyeth)—two tablets taken within 72 hours after, then another two tablets after 12 hours; Femenal (Wyeth)—two tablets taken within 72 hours after, then another two tablets after 12 hours; Microgynon 30 (Schering)—four tablets taken within 72 hours after, then another four tablets after 12 hours; Nordette (Wyeth)—four tablets taken within 72 hours after, then another four tablets after 12 hours; Rigevedon 21+7 (Gedeon Richter)—four tablets taken within 72 hours after, then another four tablets after 12 hours; Lo-gentrol (Wyeth)—four tablets taken within 72 hours after, then another four tablets after 12 hours; and Ologynon and Ovidon—two pills taken within 72 hours after, then another two pills after 12 hours.

* * *

WHY take the first dose within 72 hours? Because 72 hours or three days or more after fertilization, the body usually begins producing progesterone in amounts that will secure the implanted ovum.

Why is medical supervision necessary? Because a woman may experience side effects like nausea, vomiting, headaches, fatigue and irregular bleeding.

And why is it called "emergency" contraception? Because it is not recommended as a regular method of family planning and should be resorted to only in case of real emergencies. If a woman has reason to fear rape on a regular basis (such as in a violent relationship), she would be better off being counseled on a family planning method she can conceal from a disapproving partner.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Pack rats

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY mother is a pack rat. She doesn't throw anything away, and so her cabinets are full of clothes, bags and accessories from the 1950s which will make a collector of Retro clothing swoon.

That's not all. When my sisters got married, she produced, like a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat, a pile of wedding invitations, mass booklets and tacky souvenirs to help them design their own special day.

I imagine that all this junk is still in storage waiting for the wedding of her favorite son or her three granddaughters. We presume she developed this habit during the war when food and clothing were scarce.

A friend once described her kitchen pantry as having enough supplies to feed war-torn Sarajevo. We have enough bed sheets, monogrammed towels and underwear to last two lifetimes and we are grateful for her concern, if not her fashion and color sense.

Often I wonder what life would be if she had hoarded 19th-century master paintings, colonial jewelry, excavated gold, *santos* and fine Philippine furniture instead.

There must be some value in being a pack rat. As a historian and an antique collector, I realize that one person's trash can be another person's treasure and vice versa. My weakness is for books and I'm sure most people who visit our home find it weird that I keep old books and suffer an allergic reaction to them. People suggest that books be stored in CD-Roms to save on shelf space and antihistamines, but old books have their own peculiar charm.

My set of Zoilo Galang's Encyclopedia of the Philippines has provided me with countless hours of pleasure. The pictures in the two volumes on art by themselves are worth all the trouble. Many of the paintings and artifacts documented cannot be located now; they are believed to have been destroyed during the last war. At one point, I contemplated keeping the art volumes and giving away the rest of the set because the material was stale. Surely, the volumes on science, commerce, politics and education were dated and unsuitable for reference. But when I opened a volume at random one day and browsed through "Minor Industries in the Philippines," I realized how ignorant I was about anything outside the 19th century Philippines:

Soft drinks are a part of everyday life today and I did not realize that aerated or carbonated water was an industry that goes back to the Spanish period. In the days before Perrier came to the Philippines, people had a choice between *agua con gas* (aerated water) and *agua sin gas*, literally, "water without gas." This aerated water was often given a lemon flavor. During the American period other flavors came in. I was told my great grandmother had a carbonating machine in Guagua, Pampanga, that produced La Familia softdrinks.

The first bakery in Manila, according to Galang, was owned by the government and opened in 1631. Thus, it took a long time for "hot *pan de sal*" to become a fad. Yet, in the age of electric, gas and microwave ovens, we actually have *pan de sal* baked in a traditional wood-fired oven or *pugon*.

Aside from bread, some bakeries went into making candies and confectionery. The pioneer was the pre-war firm M.A. Clarke.

Buttons were a minor industry in pre-war Philippines. In 1918 the United States imported P2.5 million worth of buttons. These were not the mass-produced plastic ones we have today. Philippine buttons were made from seashells—*trocha*, pearl shell, green snail and chambered nautilus. Due to limited domestic demand, most of our shells and pearls were exported. These days, however, shell buttons would be ecologically incorrect.

Some industries, like dinosaurs, became extinct over time. Galang writes that "[the} harness industry in the Philippines has a very poor prospect because it depends on horse-drawn vehicles which are fast being replaced by motor cars. It is probable that the industry dates as far back as the carriage manufacture."

At the time the article was written, only *calesas*, carts and *carretelas* were in use in the country. We still see some of these vehicles on the road today usually ferrying tourists around Intramuros and some other parts of Manila. Gone are the handsome elaborate carriages that were the status symbols—the Mercedes-Benzes, Jaguars and BMWs—of their day.

In 1919 the Philippines exported P1,470,026 worth of hats. At the time, hat-making was a cottage industry and the materials used were *buntal, buri*, hemp and bamboo. The best hats came from Baliuag and Lucban, and they were said to rival the famous Panama hats in quality.

It has always been a puzzle to me why Filipinos do not wear hats as much as we should. Being in the tropics should be reason enough to stimulate growth in the hat industry, but at the time Galang published his encyclopedia there was only one large hat factory in operation. This hat factory manufactured straw hats, wool hats and umbrellas.

Like many other businessmen, Galang looked to China. "...[W]ith its hundred of millions of souls, many of whom had already begun to wear hats, [it] is also a big potential market for [hats]."

Old trade figures may be useless to a businessman, but the same data read by a historian leads to a reflection on our times and the past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Housing department is no cure-all

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

"IF you don't know what to do, pass a law." I have written in previous articles about the bills now pending in Congress which would create a Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD). My point has been that a DHUD cannot be seen as a cure-all for the systemic problems that plague the housing sector in this country. However, now that both the House and Senate leaderships have declared it to be a priority measure in deference to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address last year, in which she promised to have such a law enacted, there is greater urgency in passing the DHUD bills. Both Houses have already come up with their respective consolidated bills for plenary deliberation.

Many non-government organizations and urban poor groups take a rather ambivalent position on the creation of a DHUD. This is because they are not convinced that a change in structure or even creating a more powerful office to coordinate and direct the actions of the different housing agencies would really solve the problems of rising land prices, uncooperative local governments, lack of long-term sources of funds for housing and the overall sluggishness of the housing market. Another source of apprehension is the perception that the House consolidated bill has been heavily influenced by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and caters too much to Creba's interests. It could make it easier for private developers to convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses and gain access to funds reserved for rural development under the Agri-Agra law, since it would allocate part of these funds to a social housing fund. Given Creba's record, this has the smell of yet another attempt to raid agricultural land and funds. Understandably, many farmers' groups are up in arms and are pressing for the deletion of these provisions in the House bill.

Given these valid objections, is the bill worth saving? Would a wholesale opposition to this congressional initiative mean losing what is good in it as well as the opportunity to influence its substance and intent when there is still a chance to do so?

The attitude of Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who chairs the Senate committee on urban planning, housing and resettlement, has been that it at least represents an improvement over the present situation. The quality and magnitude of the anticipated improvement will of course depend on how well the provisions address present problems and bottlenecks and how ready the government is to undertake the needed changes in the housing bureaucracy.

The willingness of the present housing agencies to subject themselves to a reorganization is the big question here. The employees of the National Housing Authority (NHA), the biggest among the housing agencies, have been most vocal in opposing the creation of the DHUD. One might also expect the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), also known as Pag-Ibig, whose former president was sacked by President Macapagal reportedly for resisting the idea of having his agency attached to the new department, to feel threatened by its being brought under a more powerful DHUD. The need to avoid fuelling more opposition is perhaps the reason why the pending bills have, in my opinion, been quite timid in proposing any restructuring of the housing agencies.

Yet the frontline agencies, specifically the NHA and the insolvent National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC), the recipients of the biggest subsidies from the national government, badly need to be reorganized and reengineered. This will have to wait until after the department shall have been established, and only when and if the future DHUD secretary musters the political will to bite the bullet, so to speak. The legislative proposals do not include this agenda.

So are there any redeeming provisions in the DHUD bills?

One positive provision is the creation, out of the former Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), of the Housing and Urban Development Adjudication Commission (under the Senate version) or the Real Estate Adjudication Commission (its equivalent in the House version). Urban poor groups and their NGO advocates have long lobbied for the creation of a specialized body that would hear cases involving violations and non-implementation of crucial provisions of the Urban Development and Housing Act which protect the shelter rights of informal settlers and poor urban dwellers. With the new adjudicatory body being proposed, they hope to see a greater commitment on the part of the government to observe the rules contained in the UDHA, particularly on the matter of eviction and relocation.

Another promising provision contained in a previous Senate draft bill was unfortunately dropped in the final consolidated Senate version. It called for the creation of a Housing Subsidy Support Center (HSSC) which would hopefully be a means to achieving a more rational and efficient system of subsidy. Up to the present, housing subsidies are being channelled through the NHA and the NHMFC, both of which have had dismal records in collecting loan repayments. It is hoped that the establishment of the HSSC would be instrumental in crafting transparent, accessible and well-targeted subsidy schemes for low-income families. It is disheartening that the one provision which could introduce some real improvement in the poor's access to housing finance was scrapped. Without it, it is hard to justify making the Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC) bigger and more powerful while the frontline agencies are in effect simply retained in their present inept and inefficient form.

Given the pressure to enact the DHUD soon, there is a need for pro-poor advocates to work doubly hard to effect the removal of objectionable provisions, such as those in the House bill which could facilitate raids on agricultural land and funds. And to introduce or strengthen promising ones such as the HSSC. We can only hope that our legislators will take heed and give us reason to be optimistic about the DHUD. Otherwise, it may be an expensive exercise in futility, or worse.

THEY SAID

Serious issue

"Irreverence toward women is an issue that we take very seriously."
—United Church of Christ in the Philippines Bishop Emeritus Gabriel Girol

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Pork barrel: A never-ending story

THE ABOLITION of the pork barrel is really desirable but next to impossible to do.

I would say that 90 percent of our present congressmen were elected by voters who sold their votes. Each of them spent at least P20 million, and they have to recover that money.

In addition, after being elected, congressmen have to take care of the needs of their constituents, like money for medicine and contributions for burials, weddings, fiestas and sports tournaments—even bus fares or airplane tickets. They also have to take care of the media and provide food and drinks for a never-ending stream of visitors in their Manila offices as well as in their houses. And they also have to maintain an armory and an army of bodyguards. The millions they get from kickbacks may not even be enough to meet such basic expenses.

Such expenses are the mother of corruption. So I cannot blame the congressmen since it is natural for them to aspire for reelection or to continue their political hold on their territory through their wives and children. Rather, I put the blame on our people who deserve this kind of representation in Congress.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson never entered local politics. He was a policeman for most of his life. And in the Philippines, a policeman is "blessed to receive but not to give."

To me, the pork barrel is a never-ending story. Forty-five years ago when I was 11 years old, I saw a cover of the Philippine Free Press depicting the old Congress building as a pig pen and the story had for its title "Pork barrel." Unless our people reform, we will continue to have a government that is oiled by pork.

—COLUMBAN PAREDES,
Tudela, Misamis Occidental

Tuition hikes are unjustified

WE believe that another round of tuition hikes is unjustified even if the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) had given public and private schools the "go-signal." Three hundred sixty-five colleges and universities raised their tuition last school year 2001-2002. Last year also, the CHED did nothing about the 11 cases where administrators and owners of schools in the National Capital Region raised their fees without conducting consultations with their students and parents.

Every year, we are bombarded with lies by school administrators that tuition increases are necessary for "quality education." We only have to look at the board exam performance of these schools from 1994-2000, which according to the Professional Regulations Commission, only 42 percent of the graduates passed. These owners and administrators are so shameless that they are happy when their schools land among the top 2000 corporations of the country while failing to develop proficient graduates.

We are so outraged that despite blatant violations of the CHED's own memorandum No. 13, which requires that 70 percent of any increase in tuition be allotted to school personnel and teachers' wages and benefits, these schools are not sanctioned. In the NCR, Catholic schools like Adamson University and the University of Sto. Tomas take the lead in imposing a 16-percent and 15-percent tuition hike, respectively, even if there are still unresolved disputes over the teachers and personnel's wages, benefits and tenure.

This year, over 300 schools raised their tuition by an average of 12 percent. Still, the complaints of the students from nine NCR schools were again trashed by the CHED.

We are sick and tired of the CHED's inability to regulate tuition hikes and stop the collection of exorbitant fees by school administrators and school owners.

Worse, the state continues to give priority to the pursuit of war and national defense over education. As a result, state universities and colleges impose higher tuition to finance their operations as the government cuts its subsidy.

We refuse to be victims again of profiteering educator-capitalists. We demand that the Education Act of 1982, the law that deregulates tuition, be reviewed by our legislators and scrapped. We believe that education is a right of every Filipino youth that should be delivered by the state. We will not hesitate to storm the streets in nationwide protest to press our demands.

—LENI B. VALERIANO,
deputy secretary, Student Christian Movement of the Philippines (SCMP), 879 National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Edsa, Quezon City

Commercialization of Church property

EXPERTS tell us that the Post-Modern world is shaped by signs and symbols. Thus, advertising dominates our mental landscape. Also, choosing between products, customers decide on the basis of design. An organization should be visually sensitive. Otherwise it could unknowingly send the wrong message.

Catholics distinguish themselves from the Protestants in their respect for material signs. They lavish care on sacraments, statues and church buildings.

In recent decades, however, some priests and bishops have been insensitive to visual messages. They sell treasures donated by generations of concerned parishioners. They substitute hideous objects. They alter once-beautiful churches without consulting experts. They allow even the very site of their churches to be disfigured by incompatible structures.

Take the case of the Balayan Church in Batangas. The parish priest leases land a few meters from the main portal to McDonald's. To begin with, this commercializes church property that is supposed to be tax-exempt. And how will the ordinary parishioner interpret this? That the priest favors McDonald's? To be fair, he should allow Jollibee and other competitors to open shop on the same sacred precinct.

But then, the flagrant commercialization of the church's frontage lowers its dignity. What makes McDonald's local behavior offensive is that in foreign cities that have pride of place, McDonald's signs are small and discreet. In Honolulu, for instance, McDonald's tones down its signs in the more upscale parts of the city. Here they scream at you with their size and garish colors. In the United States McDonald's is regarded as cheap fast food to be taken on the run. Here, it is regarded with awe by many as *"Para kang nasa States!"*

The Golden Arches rising within the sacred perimeter sends these messages: First, that the Church has unwittingly taken sides in the capitalist war of the brands. Second, that we are indeed a neo-colony where a foreign multinational can flaunt its vulgarity before the House of God.

I realize, of course, that the lease is a fund-raiser for a worthy church project. But could not the priest and his bishop have consulted the community and business experts about a more appropriate solution?

—FERNANDO N. ZIALCITA,
Ph.D., cultural heritage program, Sociology-Anthropology Department, Ateneo de Manila University

Cheap sugar for exporters

THIS refers to the news item published in the INQUIRER last May 14, titled "Government to allow food exporters to import sugar requirement."

We wish to make clarifications on the issues raised in the news report.

Processed food (sugar-based) exporters have long been importing their sugar requirements, tariff- and duty-free, under the Customs Bonded Warehousing (CBW) Law. The purpose of the CBW is to provide cheaper and good quality sugar to our processors/exporters so that they will remain competitive in the world market. These sugar importations are covered by bonds which are liquidated upon the export of the sugar-based products.

Administrative Order (AO) 98 issued by then President Joseph Estrada in October 1999 authorized the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) to act as a CBW operator to import sugar only to serve the sugar requirements of the Philippine Exporters' Confederation (Philexport), and as an accredited CBW operator of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), its sugar importation should likewise be tariff- and duty-free. This is an expansion of an already on-going import-export program.

AO 98 also created a committee on sugar importation that formulated the implementing rules and regulations. One of the members of the committee is the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA). With the signing of the IRR by the SRA last year and upon request of the PITC, the SRA Sugar Board allowed the PITC to import an initial volume of 2,000 metric tons of sugar, but it did not push through with the importation for reasons the SRA does not know.

The sugar industry, through the SRA, has been supportive of the sugar-based processors/exporters. Upon representation of the Philippine Food Processors' and Exporters' Organization (Philfoodex) to provide its members with cheaper sugar that is locally produced, the SRA Board allocated one percent of the local production called "B-1" or food processors'/exporters' sugar, which is available to its members at world market price. The program was discontinued after 1999, because Philfoodex was able to buy only about 10 percent of what was allocated for its members.

Likewise, Philfoodex was not denied the opportunity to avail itself of any shares in the sugar importation for year 2002 under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) because it was late in submitting its application papers.

The SRA, after the BOC delegated to it in June 1999 the authority to grant import allocation to processors/exporters under the CBW, has been supportive of our processed food exporters, granting sugar import allocations of 31,326.75 MT, 57,269.49 MT and 50,708.90 MT in the years 1999, 2000, 2001, respectively, to an average of 50 exporters. Some of these exporters are even members of Philfoodex, like Celebes Agricultural Corp., Hi-Las Marketing Corp., Jonas International Phil. Inc., Fitrite Inc., to name a few. Other exporters are B-G Fruits & Nuts, Del Monte Phils., Dole Phils., Nestlé (Philippines and Asean) Inc., Nutrilicious Foods Corp., Shemberg Marketing Corp., T'Boli Agro-Industrial Dev't., Profood International, 7D Food International, among others.

In view of the foregoing, we wish to reiterate that the sugar industry and the SRA are one in providing our processed food exporters cheaper quality sugar so that they will always remain competitive in the world market.

—JAMES C. LEDESMA,
administrator, Sugar Regulatory Administration, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US warned of plot 1 week before 9/11

WASHINGTON—Egypt warned Washington one week before the Sept. 11 attacks that the al-Qaida terrorist group was plotting a major operation against a US target, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told the New York Times.

In an interview published Tuesday, Mubarak said an Egyptian secret agent was in close contact with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida and tried unsuccessfully to halt the operation, the details and magnitude of which were unknown.

"We didn't know that such a thing could take place," he said, referring to the hijacked planes that slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. "We thought it was an embassy, an airplane, something, the usual thing."

But discovering after the attacks the extent of the damage and the loss of lives (more than 3,000), Mubarak said, "that is unbelievable."

Mubarak said he did not know how the US intelligence community reacted to Egypt's warning, but he believed that security at the US Embassy in Cairo was tightened as a result.

"We informed them about everything," he said.

An unidentified senior US intelligence official cited by the newspaper said the Central Intelligence Agency had not received any warnings from Egypt in the days before the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The Egyptians gave us some threat information, earlier in 2001, of possible attacks against US or Egyptian interests" the official said. "There was nothing about hijackings, nothing about an attack inside the US. It did not come in the days before 9/11."

Mubarak, who is due to meet with US President George W. Bush at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland on June 7-8, said Egyptian intelligence officials told US intelligence that they had penetrated al-Qaida between March and May 2001.

He said one Egyptian agent had established such close contact with bin Laden's group that Egyptian officials tried to use his influence to stop the attack that was being planned.

"We knew that something was going to happen," Mubarak said. "We had good contact . . . We started to use them, to tell them, ôYou can stop this,'" using any pretext, he added, to try "to give ourselves time to realize what may take place."

He said the information gathered by the agent led his intelligence chiefs to believe that "something is going to happen in the US" or "to the United States, maybe inside the US, maybe in an airplane, maybe in embassies" outside the United States.

"We couldn't know, we tried to know where, but this information" never reached them.

"I think this man, this agent, phoned the group of bin Laden, I don't remember who it was," Mubarak said. The agent was told, "No, no, no, it's difficult to stop it."

The New York Times said a White House spokesperson declined to comment on Mubarak's remarks.

AFP

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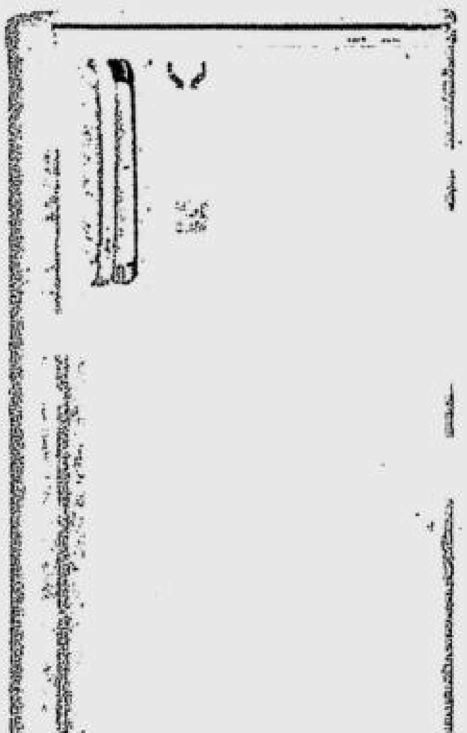

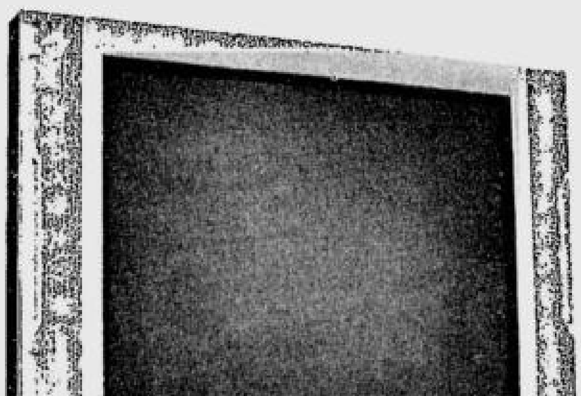

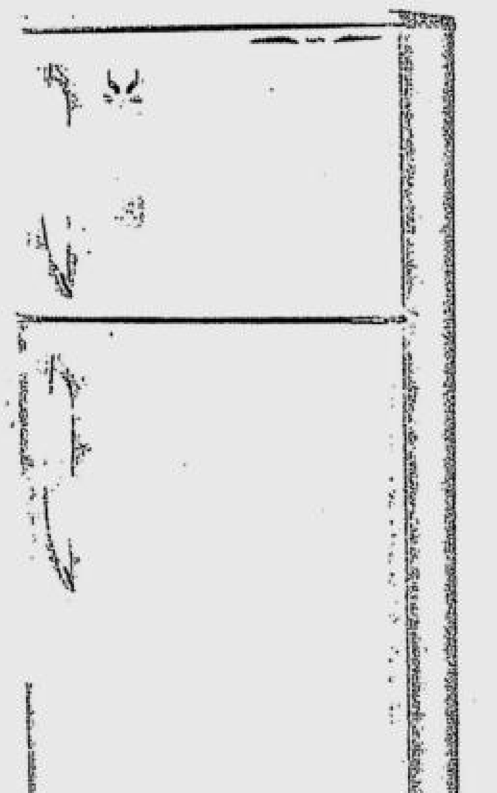

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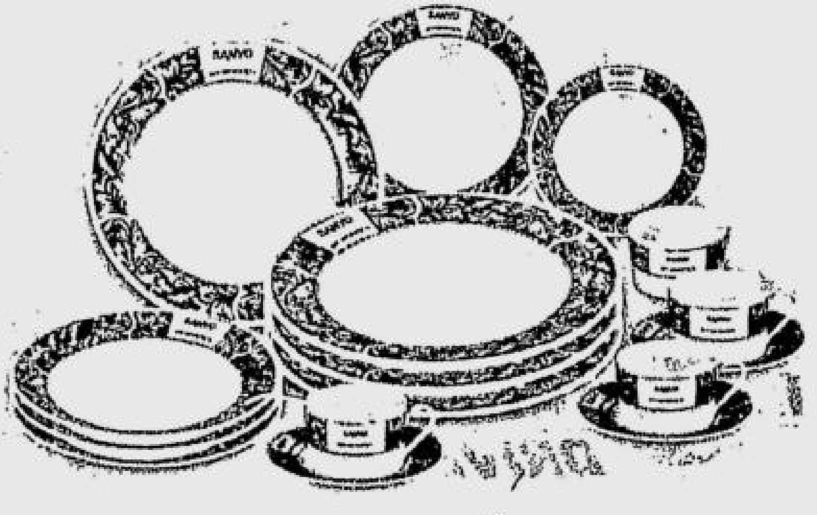

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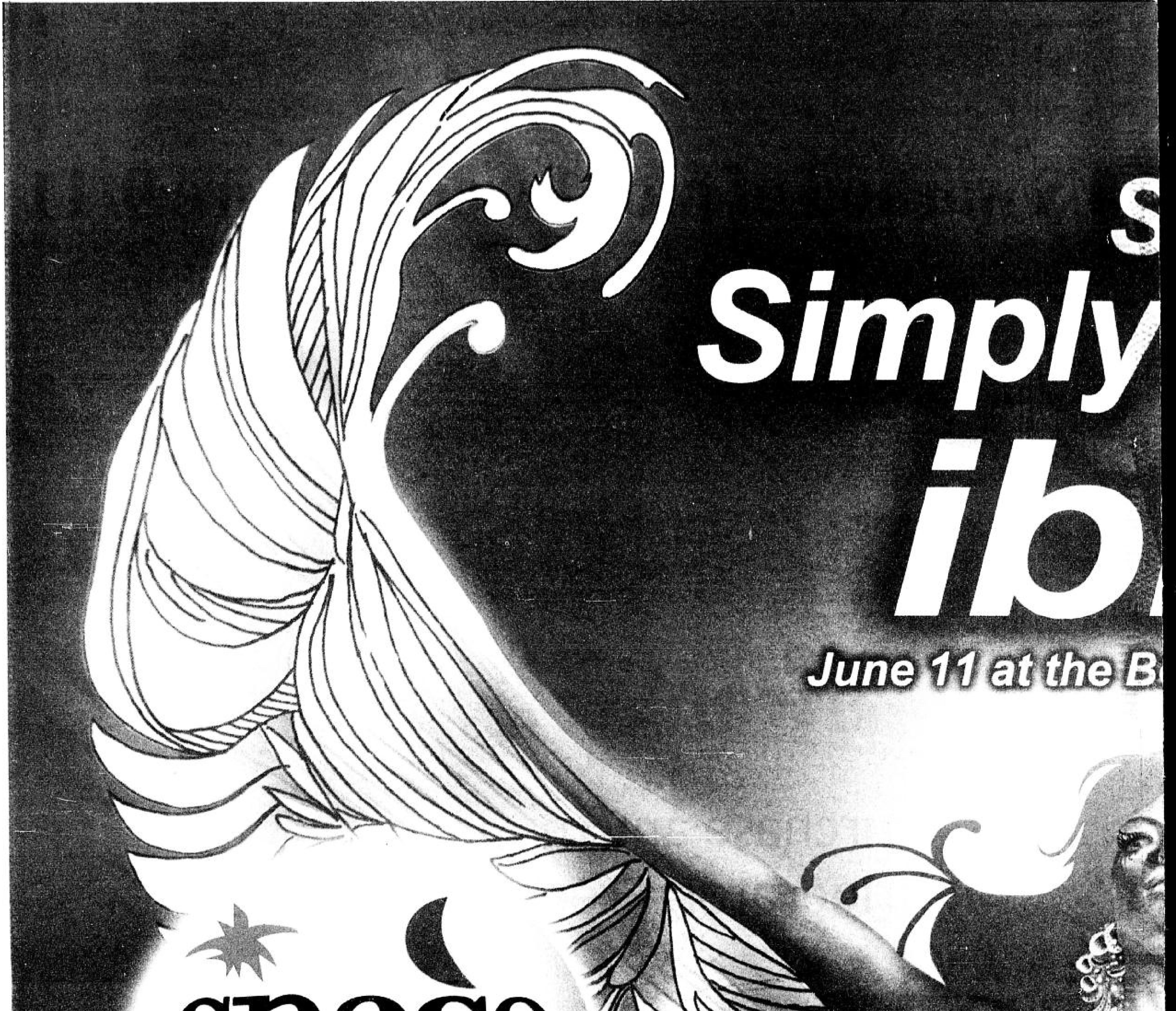

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CIA forms hit team to target terrorists abroad

WASHINGTON—The US Central Intelligence Agency has created a new super secret paramilitary unit to target known terrorists and their leaders abroad, a US government official disclosed late Monday.

The CIA already has several paramilitary units that conduct covert operations, according to the official.

But the new hit team will operate directly under the command of the agency's counterterrorism center, the brain trust of the US-led war on terror that seeks to eradicate terrorist cells around the world.

"It will really be a more counterterrorist paramilitary force that will focus on terrorists," the official said.

The number of people in the team, its weaponry and the location of its home base remain highly classified.

The move comes as US and allied forces are stepping up operations along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan to hunt down remnants of the deposed Taliban regime and al-Qaida terror network blamed for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

US President George W. Bush has repeatedly stated he wants al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden "dead or alive." But so far, the Saudi-born extremist has eluded not only capture but even sightings.

"He is believed to be alive and hiding somewhere in the region along the Afghan-Pakistani border," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

But the official declined to comment on whether the new team of highly trained and experienced CIA commandos was be to thrown into action, if US intelligence got actionable" information about the whereabouts of Bin Laden or his closest associates.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's list of most wanted terrorists currently contains 22 names, including Bin Laden and his presumed right-hand man and chief strategist, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. **AFP**

Maasai warriors give America prized cows for Sept. 11

NAIROBI, Kenya—Willson Kimeli Naiyomah is a Maasai warrior, raised to respond to every emergency. But his upbringing was of no use Sept. 11 as he watched people crying in the streets during a visit to New York City.

The feeling of helplessness stayed with Naiyomah, and when he returned to his village last month, he told elders about the attack on the World Trade Center that killed more than 2,800 people. Many of the Maasai of Enoosaen, a village 400 km southwest of Nairobi, had not heard of the terror attack.

Captivated and saddened, they decided to show solidarity and on Sunday presented the American people with 14 cows, the most prized and sacred possession in Maasai culture.

Acting US Ambassador William Brencick accepted the gift. He asked to give the cows back to the village in exchange for a beaded American flag made by local women and other traditional Maasai goods, such as braided belt worn by grieving women.

"Most of these people like America, they associate what I have done with America," Brencick said, referring to a project to provide fresh water to the village and building a school.

Naiyomah was in New York to visit Kenya's UN ambassador. He is studying pre-med at Stanford University in California.

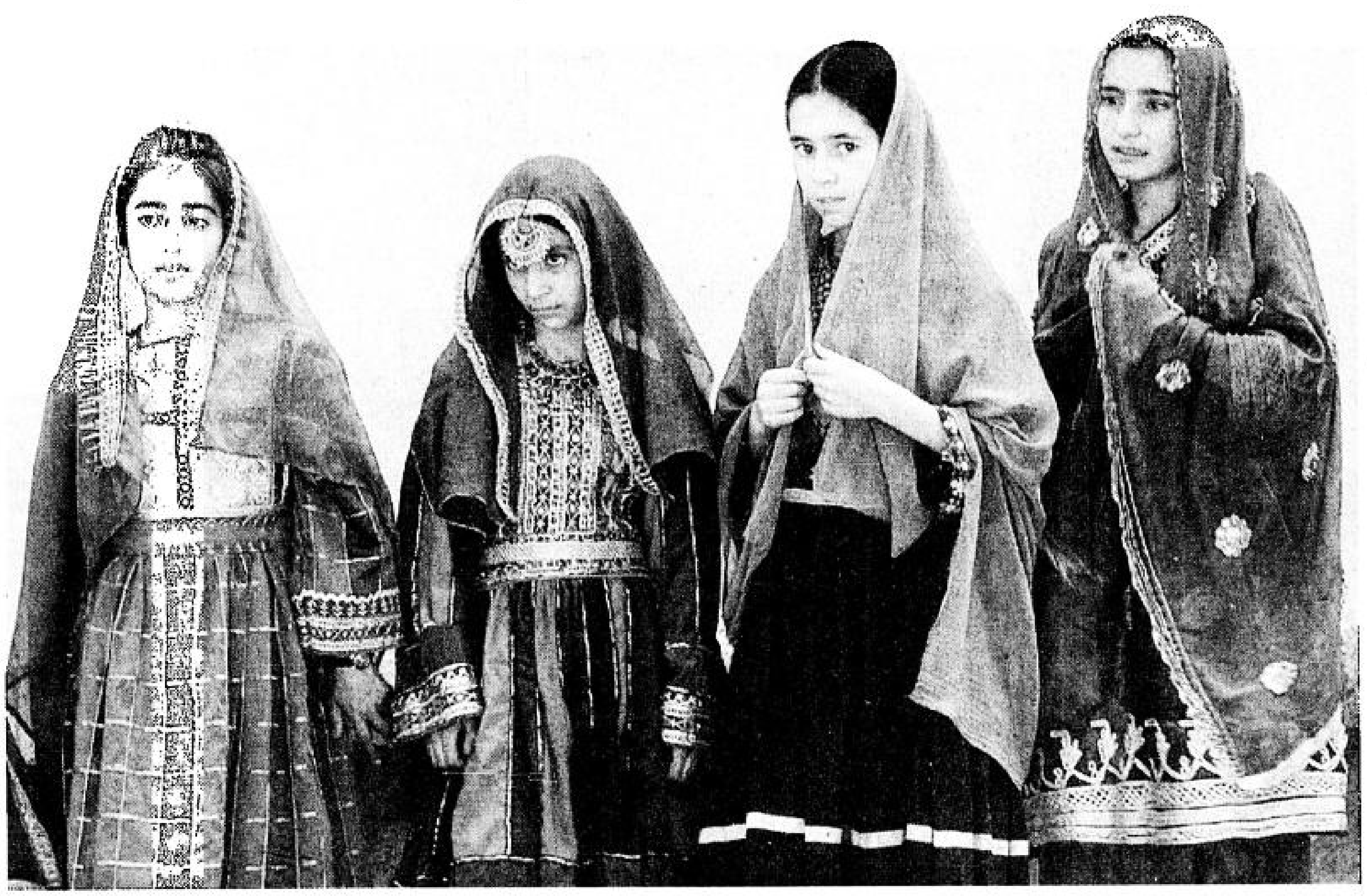
"I felt helpless . . . people were crying in the streets, dying," said Naiyomah, recalling the hours after hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center. "And there was nothing I could do." He said "as warriors, we respond to every emergency."

Naiyomah's story began in Enoosaen, a small village that is mostly a collection of mud huts just outside the Masai Mara game reserve, where tourists go to gawk at lions and zebras. The village got electricity just a year ago.

The son of a poor single mother—a rarity among the Maasai—Naiyomah's schooling began under a tree. Over time, the open-air classroom gave way to a high school, which helped him win acceptance to a university in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

Villagers began selling cows to cover the cost of Naiyomah's university education, a story that caught the attention of an American journalist. When administrators at the University of Oregon learned about the effort, they offered Naiyomah a scholarship.

He has since transferred to Stanford and hopes to become a neurosurgeon. **AP**



AFGHAN school girls stand in line to welcome French Defense Minister Michelle Alliot-Marie (not in picture) in Kabul, June 3. With the end of the Taliban regime which outlawed education access for women, schools in the Afghan capital are now open for both boys and girls as new hope appears for improvement in women's conditions in Afghanistan. AFP

Bin Laden lying low —Rumsfeld

WASHINGTON—Terrorist suspect number one Osama bin Laden is keeping a low profile, leaving his lieutenants to direct operations, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the Washington Post in an interview published Tuesday.

"My guess is, if he were active, we would know it—we would have some visible sense of it, which we haven't seem to have had, for some reason," Rumsfeld said referring to the leader of the al-Qaida terrorist group blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed some 3,000 people in the United States.

Rumsfeld said he did not know whether Bin Laden was staying out of the limelight because of security, illness or death, but that there was evidence his underlings were raising money and communicating with each other.

"We know they're in enough countries and have enough money and have enough leadership that you've got to expect they, in fact, are going to be back again," Rumsfeld said.

"There have to be six, eight, 10, 12, 15 people who know where the bank accounts are, who know people who were trained, who know what their techniques are, who can pick it up," he added.

A senior US intelligence official agreed with Rumsfeld, saying the consensus in the US intelligence community was that Bin Laden has "intentionally lowered his profile for security reasons." **AFP**

Japan okays Kyoto pact

TOKYO—pan on Tuesday ratified the Kyoto Protocol, making it the 73rd signatory to the UN pact aimed at fighting global warming which the United States has rejected.

The Cabinet Tuesday approved documents to ratify the accord after the upper house of parliament voted 229-0 vote in favor of it on Friday.

The documents will now be submitted to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan later in the day, a statement said.

With Japan firmly on board, the accord has now won support from countries responsible for 36 percent of the 1990 level of global greenhouse gas emissions.

But that still falls short of the 55 percent threshold required for the pact to take effect, Japanese officials said.

Countries supporting the protocol have been pushing for that target to be met before the world summit on sustainable development, which begins in Johannesburg on Aug. 26.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi called in the statement for US participation to help fight the emissions of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, even though Washington opted out of the pact in March 2001.

"The government of Japan will do its utmost to establish a common rule, in which all countries including the United States and the developing countries participate," he said.

In a report submitted to the United Nations over the weekend, the United States for the first time recognized that global warming is caused to a great degree by human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, but refused to shift its position on the Kyoto pact.

The UN protocol, the first coordinated world response to tackling global warming, was drawn up as a "framework" agreement in Kyoto, western Japan, in 1997, but it took nearly four years to flesh out the deal with a book of rules and procedures. **AFP**

50M babies started life in 2000 without official identity

UNITED NATIONS—An estimated 50 million babies—over 40 percent of those born in the year 2000—were not registered at birth which means they started life without a registered name or a nationality, the Unicef said in a report Tuesday.

The vast majority of these babies are the children of the poor and the marginalized who are denied the "membership card" that could open the door to a wide range of rights and a better life than their parents, it said.

"With no document to prove how old they are—or even who they are—they are likely to join the millions facing discrimination and the lack of access to basic services such as health and education," said Marta Santos Pais, director of the Unicef's Innocenti Research Center in Florence, Italy, which prepared the report.

"An unregistered child will be a more attractive `commodity' to a child trafficker and does not have even the minimal protection that a birth certificate provides against early marriage, child labor, recruitment in the armed forces or detention and prosecution as an adult," she said in an editorial at the start of the report.

"In later life, the unregistered child may be unable to apply for a passport or formal job, open a bank account, get a marriage license, stand for elective office or vote," Santos Pais said. ``The `invisibility' of unregistered children makes it more likely that the discrimination, neglect and abuse they experience will remain unnoticed."

The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which children under the age of five were not registered at birth, and in 19 cases, the figure was at least 60 percent," the report said.

That does not include Afghanistan, Eritrea and Congo, which have virtually nonexistent registration and from which data was not available.

In sub-Saharan Africa, over 70 percent of births went unregistered, and in south Asia, 63 percent. But south Asia had the largest number of unregistered children, with approximately 22.5 million, or over 40 percent of the world's unregistered births in 2000, compared to about 17 million in sub-Saharan Africa, the report said.

In the Middle East and north Africa, nearly one-third of the children born in 2000, a total of some 3 million, lacked legal recognition of their identity, and in east Asia and the Pacific, 22 percent of births—some 7 million—were unregistered, it said. **AP**

BRITAIN'S Prince William (photo at left) reacts to the loud music at the Golden Jubilee pop concert in the gardens of Buckingham Palace in London June 3. At right, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh wave to the crowds as they arrive for the Golden Jubilee Parade in Windsor earlier in the day. The Queen is celebrating her 50th year on the throne. REUTERS

Britain winds up party for Jubilee queen

LONDON—A grand display of British pomp and pageantry on Tuesday winds up a four-day party celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 50 years on the throne.

A day after rock and pop stars paid tribute to the 76-year-old monarch with a deafening concert in the normally sedate grounds of Buckingham Palace, the queen was preparing for a more traditional ceremonial procession through the streets of London in a magnificent gilded carriage.

"We feel proud of you; proud and grateful for everything you have done for your country and the Commonwealth over 50 extraordinary years," her son and heir Prince Charles said in an emotional tribute after Monday night's ``Party at the Palace."

The concert, watched by more than a million people on the streets and parks outside the palace and millions more on television, was a high point in the four-day Golden Jubilee celebrations which have seen a resurgence of royal fervor and patriotism sweep through Britain.

Red, white and blue bunting festooned thousands of street parties held around the country on Sunday and Monday, recalling a bygone era when monarchy stood at the center of British life.

"If outsiders want to know what sort of people we really are, the last 24 hours will have provided plenty of pointers," said the Daily Mail newspaper in its editorial.

"In many ways this was Britain as its very best."

Others echoed these sentiments, praising the too-rare community spirit which Britons displayed during a four-day weekend to celebrate the queen's reign.

"What unites us at a time like this is a sense of community—and a sense of nationhood," said the Mirror.

The queen took part in a ceremonial procession through London Tuesday and attended a special thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral.

The service was followed by a vast parade of 20,000 people to be led by a Hell's Angels motorbike-rider and also include the world's largest, 5,000-strong, gospel choir.

Aircraft from the last 50 years, including Concorde, flew over Buckingham Palace as part of the Jubilee finale.

The huge public enthusiasm for the Golden Jubilee had silenced cynics who said it would be a damp squib.

It has also relieved palace officials who had privately voiced fears that Britons had stopped caring about the monarchy when interest was slow to warm up. **Reuters**

Worst storms in 100 years ravage Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile—At least four people were reported killed on Monday in the worst storms to hit Chile in more than 100 years, awakening fears of a return visit of the devastating El Niño weather phenomenon.

Torrents of muddy water flooded into hundreds of homes in the capital, financial markets ground to a halt and heavy snow in the Andes mountains blocked the main road link with neighboring Argentina.

"We are in the presence of the heaviest precipitation since records began. It is greater than that of 1926, which was the worst of the 20th century," President Ricardo Lagos said in a live television address to the nation.

The government said more than 150 mm of rain fell in the last 24 hours.

Many towns in the south of the country, which stretches for 4,500 km down the backbone of South America, were under 1.5 meters of snow, local authorities said.

Among the dead were a married couple whose flimsy wooden ouse in the city of Valparaiso was swept away by a mudslide.

The River Mapocho, which runs through downtown Santiago, was in danger of bursting its banks in residential areas. **Reuters**

No handshake, no eye contact for Indian, Pakistan leaders

PAKISTANI President Pervez Musharraf arriving at Almaty airport, June 3. Musharraf came to Kazakhstan for a security conference which was also attended by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. REUTERS

ALMATY—Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf studiously avoided each other Tuesday even though they were barely a few feet apart soon after a regional summit ended here and the leaders dispersed.

Both dressed in their traditional national dresses—Vajpayee in a dark short jacket and trousers and Musharraf in a long coat—the two leaders failed to exchange a single glance as the summit ended and everyone walked out of the CICA conference hall into a waiting lounge.

A live telecast by Kazakh state television Khabar beamed images of Vajpayee slowly and quietly walking along with other world leaders, several meters behind Musharraf.

Even as several of the leaders shook hands as the meeting ended, Vajpayee and Musharraf made sure the distance between them remained well maintained.

At the group photograph venue, the two leaders walked to their respective positions, again avoiding any eye or body contact.

As the cameras blazed, Musharraf gave a beaming smile and even looked to his right briefly but his gaze ended well short of where the Indian leader stood, looking straight ahead.

In the small waiting lounge outside the conference hall, Vajpayee was seen talking with the Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev while Musharraf stood next to Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Here again, it seemed as if tremendous care was taken by the two to avoid any interaction as they maneuvered their way out of the lounge and left in their respective cars for a lunch hosted by Nazarbyev at a nearby venue.

The telecast ended just then, leaving the hordes of international media here in suspense about how the two would behave during the lunch that was not covered by the channel, which had been given the sole rights to telecast the ceremony. *AFP*

Armitage to use reason, logic in South Asia peace mission

WASHINGTON—US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage on Monday pledged to bring reason and logic to bear in his peace mission to India and Pakistan, but warned that the horrific prospect of nuclear war in the region could not be ruled out.

Armitage, who leaves for the region on Tuesday, said he hoped to hear Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf had halted incursions by Islamic guerrillas into Indian-controlled Kashmir—a key demand of New Delhi.

But, as fears linger that a conflict between India and Pakistan could degenerate into the world's first nuclear exchange, he made clear he expected assurances from India as well, warning that it must accept the responsibility of being in the "superpower club."

Armitage, a physically imposing former US naval officer, is scheduled to have talks in Pakistan and India on Thursday and Friday, in the latest stage of an accelerating international drive to head off war in South Asia.

Pressing home the US case, Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke at the weekend to Musharraf, while Armitage consulted British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who was in South Asia last week, aides said.

The latest US engagement came as Russian President Vladimir Putin was set to apply his diplomatic credentials to the crisis at a regional summit in Kazakhstan, attended by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Musharraf.

"I think the United States, joined by our international parties, right now joined by President Putin in Almaty, is trying to do our best to bring reason and logic to bear on what's a very difficult situation," Armitage said in a CNN interview.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said that the administration appreciated Putin's efforts, which are seen by many as a bid by the Russian leader to reestablish Russia's credentials as a major global player.

Armitage, who will be followed to the region later this month by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, praised Musharraf's weekend statement that no sane individual could think about starting nuclear war, and such an eventuality should not be up for discussion."

But he cautioned: "the whole effort has to be to try to keep them from escalating right now. And I think those who say we shouldn't even think about a nuclear exchange are right in one way, but we have to have it in the back of our minds."

Officials from the United States and its Western allies appear to believe that India and Pakistan have not thought through the consequences of the nuclear weapons they acquired after atomic tests in 1998. *AFP*

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Arafat defies court order to free militant

GAZA CITY—Yasser Arafat defied Monday night a Palestinian court order to release the leader of a hardline group that killed an Israeli minister, risking the anger of his people as he bowed under US and Israeli pressure.

The Palestinian High Court's release order for Ahmed Saadat, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), clouded the start of CIA chief George Tenet's mission to overhaul the Palestinian security services, and challenged Arafat's own reform program.

The Palestinian leadership rejected the court order, averting what looked like a possible fresh crisis in the region, following US pleas and Israeli threats to take the law in its own hands if Saadat was freed.

"Given the present circumstances, and because of Israeli threats, the Palestinian leadership cannot order Saadat's release, as requested by the High Court," it said in a statement.

"We expect the Palestinians will work with the Israelis rather than take unilateral steps," state department spokesperson Philip Reeker had said shortly before the announcement that the man Israel accuses of ordering the October assassination of an Israeli minister would stay behind bars.

The Palestinian leadership's decision not to follow the court's recommendation to free Saadat on the grounds that there was no evidence linking him to Rehavam Zeevi's slaying also came as Tenet met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Israeli public radio reported that during their meeting in Jerusalem, Sharon urged Tenet to put pressure on the Palestinians to keep Saadat in his Jericho jail, where he has been locked under US and British custody since early May so that Arafat could walk free from his five-week siege in Ramallah.

The court ruling had prompted Sharon to warn that Israel had taken "all necessary measures to prevent the release of Ahmed Saadat," while Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer declared "Israel would be free to act in accordance with its security requirements" if Saadat was let go. *AFP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorm becoming widespread rains over extreme Northern Luzon and Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	HI 20° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/05/02

Power problems take toll on health of energy secretary

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The long hours spent on threshing out the problems that affect the power sector amid threats of protest rallies nationwide have taken a toll on the health of the country's energy czar.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. failed to attend Saturday's switching-on ceremony of the 1000th village to be energized because he was sick.

During her State-of-the-Nation Address in July, President Macapagal-Arroyo promised to provide power to 1,000 far-flung barangays in the country.

"We were together last night (Friday). I noticed that his health has given way because of the many issues that he faces in Manila," Energy Undersecretary Jose Victor Emmanuel De Dios said in Filipino before residents of the far-flung village of Casapa in Jiabong town, Samar.

De Dios, who stood on behalf of Perez as guest of honor and speaker of the switching-on ceremony in Barangay Casapa, said they worked every day from 7 a.m. until 7 or 8 p.m.

He said they had kept a hectic pace for the last three weeks that on Friday night, Perez was already nursing a high fever. He said Perez already had a plane ticket, via Tacloban City, for his Samar trip but he decided not to go because he was not well.

Militant groups earlier announced that they would hold mass protest rallies this Wednesday to dramatize their opposition to the purchased power adjustment (PPA), which comprise about 50 percent of consumers' electricity bills.

"We're trying to reach out to those who advocate more radical forms of protest and we appreciate that. And we'd like to appeal to them to, let's discuss the issues . . . and try to reason with them," De Dios told reporters in an interview after the short program in Barangay Casapa.

He also admitted that the drastic scrapping of the PPA would have an impact on the national budget.

"We should not do this. Let us try to minimize and mitigate, and we can do this by passing a law, making amendments to Republic Act 9136, try to negotiate with some of the IPPs (independent power producers), try to bring down the prices of power generation," he said.

Also last Saturday, the Department of Energy announced in a press statement that the National Power Corp. (Napocor) reduced its Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (PPCA), in compliance with the May 8 directive of President Macapagal.

The PPCA is a cost-recovery mechanism used by the Napocor to recover changes in the cost of power purchased from IPPs, which is then included in charges passed on to end-users by distribution utilities in the form of PPA.

"The PPCA will be pegged at a uniform rate of P0.40 per kilowatt-hour, resulting in a reduction of between P0.10 top P1.13 per kwh depending on the grid," the DOE said.

It said the figure represents a national average reduction of P0.85/kwh from the present rate of some P1.25/kwh.

Taiwan boat held on drug suspicion

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Customs inspectors here on Monday seized a Taiwanese fishing boat suspected to be carrying chemicals used in manufacturing the illegal substance methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

Lawyer Rolando Yebes, Iloilo port district customs collector, said the fishing vessel Hung Hu was sealed off at around 5:30 p.m. at the Iloilo Fishing Port Complex after the chemicals found in the cargo port tested positive for residues of shabu during field testing conducted by a customs inspector.

Yebes said the three-member boarding party found the chemicals inside three containers during a regular inspection of the vessel.

The customs inspectors became suspicious when the six-member crew told them that the chemicals were rice wine but they refused to drink or taste it when challenged by the inspectors.

The chemicals as well as fish finders and other items found in the vessel were not listed in the inward cargo manifest, Yebes told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But preliminary testing conducted around 2 a.m. yesterday by the Philippine National Police (PNP) crime laboratory and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on the chemicals turned negative for the illegal substance.

He said the customs office would wait for the results of the "general and complete" testing conducted by the PNP and the NBI yesterday before determining if charges of smuggling of illegal substances would be filed against the crew.

He, however, admitted that the field testing was not always accurate and that "there was a possibility for mistakes."

The vessel and the crew would temporarily be held at the Iloilo Fishing Port Complex pending investigation.

Even if the chemicals were legal, the crew would still face a penalty of P30,000 and the forfeiture of their cargo for failing to declare it in the cargo manifest, said Yebes.

Yebes said the crew of the 200-ton vessel usually drop by Iloilo City before going to either China or Taiwan to purchase marine products.

But the Hung Hu and other vessels from Taiwan, China and Bangkok are regularly put under surveillance for smuggling because these ports of origin are considered "risk countries," he added.

The trafficking of shabu in the country has become a lucrative trade for crime gangs that get their supply mostly from smugglers.

One of the biggest hauls of shabu was made in May 2000 when police seized at least nine kilos of the illegal substance in Claveria, Cagayan.

Former Cagayan police chief Supt. Thompson Lantion had said the drug shipment was packed in nine cellophane bags and placed in a plastic container.

The illegal drugs were supposed to be transported to Ilocos Norte when a team from the regional and provincial police offices flagged down the suspects' vehicle in Claveria.

Lantion said the suspects' arrest was the result of a month-long surveillance following reports that illegal drug syndicates use the coastal towns of Claveria and Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, as drop-off points.

Police believed the illegal substance was being smuggled into the country from China through Taiwan and through the country's northern coastline.

In December of the same year, police raided a suspected shabu manufacturing plant in Calayan, Cagayan.

The plant was believed to be operated by Taiwanese.

Dirty water brings diarrhea to 2 villages; 2 kids die, 146 taken ill

TACLOBAN CITY—Two children died and 146 others were taken ill due to diarrhea that hit a northern village of this city and another in the nearby town of Babatngon.

Health authorities declined to identify the fatalities except to say that the four-year-old girl was from Barangay Governor Jaro, in Babatngon and the two-year-old boy was from Barangay Tagpuro of this city.

Annabelle de Veyra, regional sentinel nurse of the Department of Health (DOH) in Eastern Visayas, said the outbreak of diarrhea was first detected in Barangay Governor Jaro on May 4.

Four days later, 92 persons were reported ill of diarrhea in Barangay Governor Jaro. As of May 31, the total number of persons downed by diarrhea reached 136 with one death.

Cases of diarrhea were later reported in Barangay Tagpuro on May 27. As of yesterday, the total number of cases reached 10 with also one fatality.

De Veyra said the diarrhea cases in Barangay Governor Jaro were caused by a dirty open-dug well, where the residents get their water.

But the diarrhea cases in Barangay Tagpuro, he added, were "a case of spillover."

Barangay Tagpuro is just 15 minutes away from Barangay Governor Jaro, which is some three kilometers from the town proper of Babatngon.

De Veyra said mosquitoes feeding on human waste might have spread the bacteria to Barangay Tagpuro.

"But the situation is now under control. We immediately gave oresols (oral rehydration solutions) to the residents and asked them to chlorinate or boil their water before drinking," she said.

City Health Officer Jaime Opinion Jr. said that while the diarrhea cases in Barangay Tagpuro could be a spillover, the cause could still be traced to the source of their drinking water.

Just like in Barangay Governor Jaro, the residents of Barangay Tagpuro get their water from open dug-well.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Expert warns on use of biotechnology

STA. BARBARA, Pangasinan—While agricultural biotechnology is safe for people and the environment, it is only an alternative method and must not be imposed on farmers, a biotechnology expert told agriculturists here.

Antonio Laurena, research associate professor of the Institute of Plant Breeding of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, said biotechnology "is just a tool" and must be "used with conscience" by those involved in it.

Biotechnology is any technique that makes use of organisms (or its parts) to make or modify products, to improve plants or animals, or to develop microorganisms for specific purposes.

Laurena was here on Monday during a symposium on biotechnology, part of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Festival 2002 sponsored by the provincial government.

He admitted that genetically modified (GM) crops have potential health risks, such as unintentionally introducing allergens (a substance that acts as an antigen producing allergy) or toxins in food.

"But many food today with anti-nutritional factors or toxins are not banned, but the risks are managed," he said.

Another issue raised against genetically modified crops is the likelihood of transgenes (genes artificially inserted into an organism) escaping from cultivated crops into wild relatives, and may result in the production of "superbugs" and "superweeds."

However, Laurena explained that by nature, insects and weeds evolve and develop tolerance or resistance naturally, even without biotechnology, or because of use of pesticides.

"Perhaps it's the spiritual law that we must work hard for what we must eat. But perhaps it's also a spiritual law that we use our brains to make life easier," he said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

GUIJO DUENAS

STEADY HANDS

There's no better assurance of safety for this boy than the waiting hands of his father as he jumps off a coconut tree on Boracay Island.

Reb slain, cop chief wounded in clash

TAGBILARAN CITY—A suspected rebel was killed while the police chief of San Miguel town was wounded when armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) fired upon a police team late Monday afternoon.

Reports reaching Camp Dagohoy this city did not identify the lone fatality. The report did not say who found the body and where it was taken.

Radio station dyTR, however, reported that the body was still at the town proper of San Miguel, some 86 kilometers from here, while authorities were verifying his identity.

A six-man team from the San Miguel police station led by their chief, SPO4 Victor Gubat, was conducting a patrol about 5 p.m. when at least 35 rebels opened fire at them.

Barangay Garcia, where the clash took place, is only about three kilometers from the San Miguel town hall.

Gubat was hit in the right jaw in the first volley of fire. The exchange of gunfire lasted for 35 minutes.

The police team withdrew upon the arrival of reinforcements from the Army's 302nd Infantry Brigade stationed in neighboring Trinidad town.

But the rebels managed to escape in the direction of Barangay Banlasan, Trinidad.

The clash was the second insurgency-related incident in Bohol this year.

Last May 17, soldiers from the Army's 17th Special Forces Company and several policemen raided a house in Barangay Candasig, Balilihan town. ***Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Ancestral land claims in Moro areas recognized soon

BAGUIO CITY—Gov. Farrouk Hussein of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is expected to issue an executive order acknowledging the mandate of the 1997 Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra) on Moro territory.

This came about after the government started looking into the processing of ancestral land claims inside the former camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Commissioner Edtami Mansayagan of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said the government negotiated the proposed directive with Hussein in April to allow NCIP access to areas long reputed to be Moro strongholds.

"The (Muslims in the region) do not recognize the Ipra," he said in a press conference following a dialogue between NCIP commissioners and Ibalois here.

Malacañang is fast-tracking a restoration plan for Mindanao areas that were razed by the government's "all-out-war" campaign against the MILF in 1999 and 2000.

It is also strengthening social reform programs in the region, following this month's affirmation of an interim agreement leading to the resumption of peace talks with the MILF.

Mansayagan said the NCIP wants to determine the scope of ancestral lands within Moro communities, which are populated by about 100,000 *lumads*.

"Governor Hussein's executive order will (formalize the region's) respect for the ancestral property rights of the (*lumads*). But we will have to find a way to facilitate the processing of these ancestral land claims (without touching the political and cultural sensitivities of the Muslim communities)," he said.

NCIP sources said Malacañang wants some haste in NCIP processing in Mindanao because of President Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last year.

Promising 100 certificates of ancestral land titles (CALTs) by year-end, Ms Macapagal failed to deal with the NCIP's budgetary crisis, which prevented the agency from delineating new ancestral land titles.

A compromise may involve the release of 50 CALTs and 50 certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADTs), which may include Mindanao claims, the source said.

NCIP Chair Evelyn Dunuan said the government was ready to release the first 615 CALTs in December 2000, but withdrew these when it unearthed a number of questionable and unvalidated CALTs.

NCIP Commissioner Norma Gunos said the NCIP is preparing the social and geological investigations of the *lumads'* ancestral claims, which will proceed immediately once Hussein's directive is issued.

But Dunuan said the ARMM talks are part of the commission's efforts to deal with a turf war with other government agencies.

She said one of NCIP's bigger problems is the jurisdictional conflict with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, the 1995 Philippine Mining Act, and the National Integrated and Protected Areas Systems Act. She said many government institutions still refuse to recognize the mandate of the NCIP. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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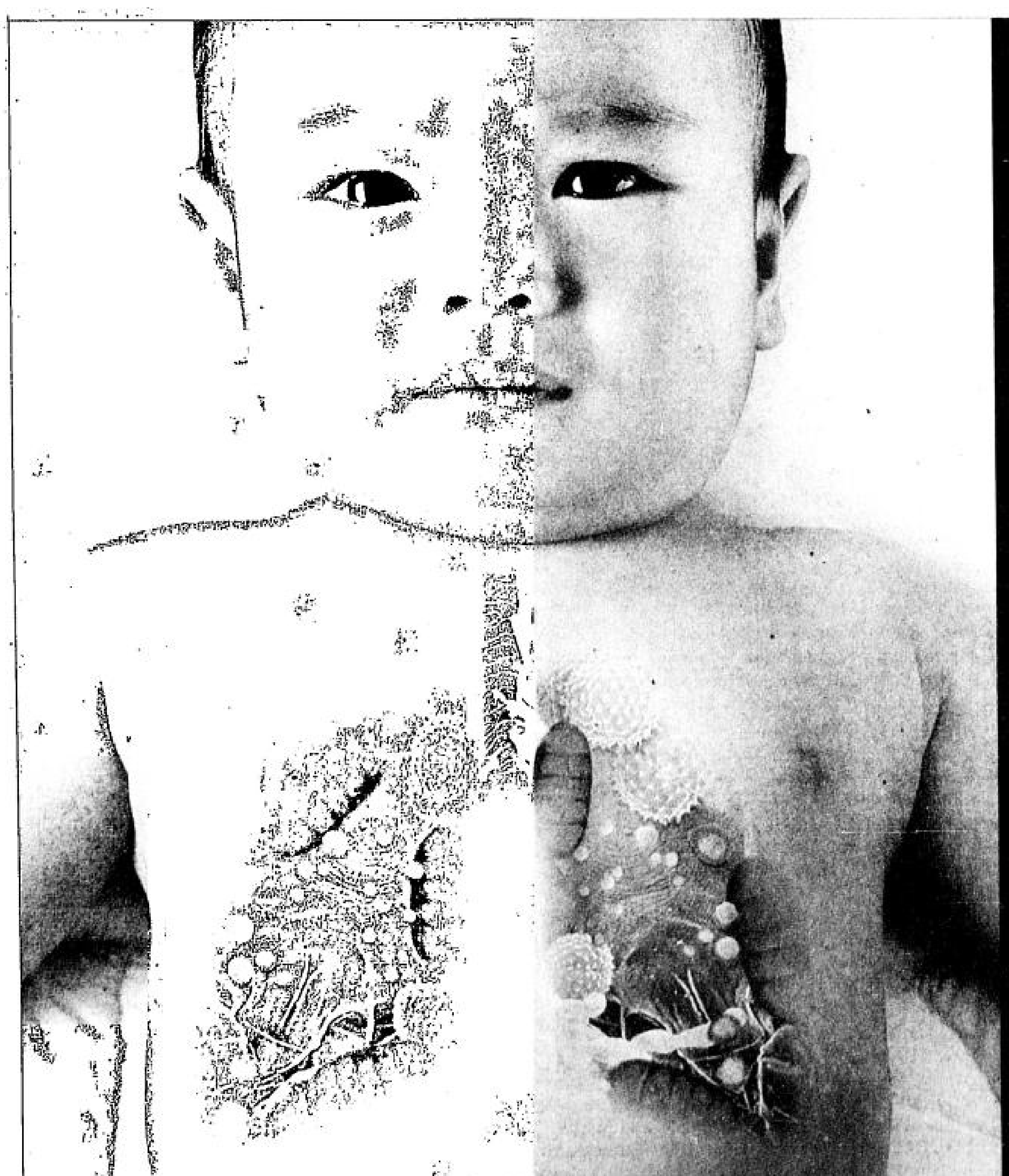

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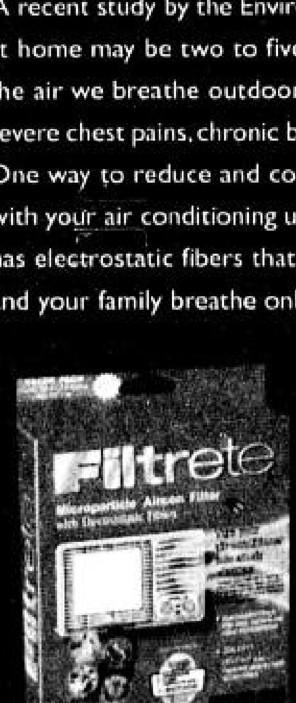

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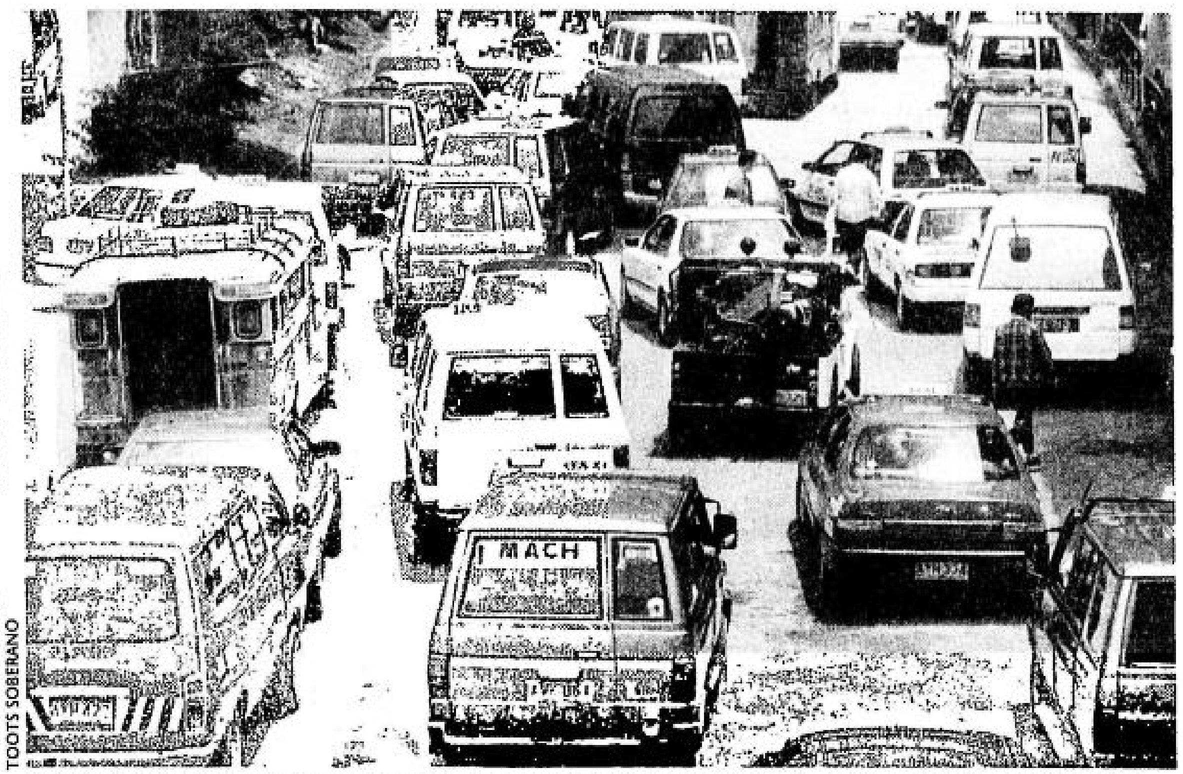
STUDENTS and parents in Baguio City do last minute shopping for school supplies.



TOOTS SOBERANO

TRAFFIC jams welcome students who will troop to Baguio's colleges and universities this school year.

Congestion is growing headache for North's education capital

By Maurice Malanes

Baguio City

BE it in the tourism or education front, Baguio City has a cutting edge—its mountain climate, which is conducive for study and creativity.

The good standing of most of Baguio's five universities and colleges in bar and other professional board examinations is also another competitive edge for this city. This shows that in terms of quality education, Baguio's temples of learning are at par with Metro Manila's and other major cities' educational institutions.

It is not any wonder that Baguio has emerged as the undisputed educational capital in Northern Philippines, attracting students not only from Luzon but from various parts of the country as well.

As school year 2002-2003 opens, about 70,000 students and pupils will troop to this city's universities, colleges and private and public secondary and elementary schools and pre-schools.

Of the total student population, 80 percent or 56,000 are college students, who, for the next 10 months, will sustain various local businesses such as board and lodging houses, canteens, passenger jeepneys and taxis, the public market, grocery stores, bookstores and *wagwag* (second-hand clothes) stalls.

Assuming that each of the 56,000 college students spends an average of P5,000 a month for tuition and other school fees, board and lodging, transportation, food and other needs, the whole college population is actually pumping into the city's economy P280 million each month for 10 months yearly.

Traffic woes

The estimate does not even include the high school students and elementary and pre-school pupils who also spend on tuition, transportation and other needs.

Dr. Virgilio Bautista, president of the University of Baguio (UB), was thus right in telling a recent media forum that students are the main backbone of Baguio's economy.

Unfortunately, Baguio's urban development plan has yet to cope with the demands of a growing student population.

Every time before the school year begins, city officials would talk about traffic re-routing schemes to ease the traffic flow. For this month until August, students will have to bear with traffic woes because the city government is repairing a major drainage system along a major avenue here.

But even after the drainage shall have been repaired, traffic flow will still be tight for the 70,000 students and pupils because each morning most of them rush to the city's downtown, where their schools are concentrated.

During a media forum on education here last week, some officials acknowledged that traffic rerouting schemes are just temporary palliative measures.

"To ultimately decongest the city's center, we have to bring campuses outside the city," said Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia.

He cited how Manila had decongested its already crowded University Belt by encouraging the University of the Philippines to establish a campus in Diliman, Quezon City; and the Ateneo at Loyola Heights, also in Quezon City.

After a killer quake in July 1990 toppled many of this city's structures, representatives from various sectors and some local government officials had become enthusiastic to review and update the city's land use and zoning plan.

BLIST plan

As part of a rehabilitation aid package for Baguio after the 1990 quake, the European Union provided not only funds but also consultants to help design what was to be called the BLIST Master Plan. BLIST refers to Baguio and the neighboring towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba.

The BLIST plan was premised on the realization that downtown Baguio's "carrying capacity" could no longer absorb more building structures and more population. Thus, the need to disperse development in Baguio's neighboring towns in Benguet and decongest the city.

The development plans of the BLIST member-towns should have been anchored on the BLIST Master Plan had it been ironed out.

Bautista said he and other private school owners welcomed the BLIST idea. After the quake, they met with mayors of the BLIST area and brainstormed on ways to encourage private school owners to bring their campuses outside the city.

"Unfortunately, we had difficulty getting local government units to really look at education as a service rather than as a business," Bautista lamented, saying those who pioneer schools outside the city should be given incentives.

He cited a five-hectare lot in a neighboring town, which should have been an ideal extension campus for UB but the school backed out because it could not afford the P250 million cost of the lot alone.

Defeating a noble aim

The BLIST plan, meantime, Tenefrancia said, remains simply an idea on paper with no implementing policies.

But administrators of private and public universities and colleges continue to seriously mull over the need to expand their campuses outside the city.

In fact, the University of the Philippines College Baguio has sought to expand its campus in the village of Taloy in neighboring Tuba town.

Unfortunately, more and more private schools offering college and computer education continue to elbow their way into the city's already crowded downtown.

Asked if there are policies about regulating the entry of new schools into the heart of the city, Dr. Ramon Santiago, director of the Commission on Higher Education in Cordillera, said there are no such policies.

"As long as they (new schools) are willing to spend and have the required facilities and curriculum, they can already operate," he said.

This worries administrators of old private schools in the city such as Bautista. "This defeats the whole noble aim of the BLIST plan," he said, referring to the new schools being allowed to set up their campuses in downtown Baguio.

Bautista thus stressed the need to sit down with the city council and discuss and agree on policies, which can really regulate the entry of new college schools, including private nursery and elementary schools.

"Otherwise," he said, "we are inviting a daily traffic nightmare."

'Burnay,' Vigan tiles revive Ilocos economy

By Frank Cimatu

Vigan City

IT is a dream job for a carabao. For only six days a month, all that one does is stomp on mud.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

But this carabao of RG Jar Factory in Vigan City in Ilocos Sur is doing what its ancestors were doing for more than 150 years. The clay mud the carabao has been kneading, taken from a farm in Barangay Ayusan here, has sustained the *burnay* (unglazed earthen jar) industry in Vigan.

Farther down the road at Barangay Bulala, potters are making Vigan tiles and *lubon* (clay linings of artesian wells). These tiles have been used in those famous Vigan houses and remain to be manufactured for newer houses as well. Known as the "poor man's tiles," these are now being preferred for their rustic appeal.

Together, the *burnay* and Vigan tile industries have revived the economy of the province and brought a touch of Ilocos to houses everywhere.

THE *BURNAY* is a popular item among tourists visiting Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR

Burnay, those heavy unglazed earthen jars, have been around since 1824 when Go Kay Tiat started his dragon kiln in the Pagburnayan district of Vigan. The *burnays* were used to store *basi* (sugarcane wine), salt, *bagoong* (fish paste) and other condiments.

As the years pass, these jars were bought as stands for umbrellas or lamps or as accent pieces. The RG Jar Factory as well as the NPA (for Nicolas Pedro Amistad) Factory has become part of the Vigan tourism package.

Almost every day, one can see tourists gawking at Constantine Sancho turning the potter's wheel as he forms a clump of mud into a *burnay*.

Sancho has been a potter for the past 22 years. He keeps his fingernails pointed to create the grooves on the jars. He earns P7 per big jar and can make 100 pieces in a day.

But on the usual day, he makes 30 big jars and 70 smaller ones. His partner, Nelson Esporoso, who portions the clay according to the size of the piece, gets P3.50.

About 100 *burnay* jars, some sold at P550 each, are bought every day, said factory supervisor Aster Alcid. Tourists buy these jars, but many of the reliable buyers still use them to store *bagoong* and *basi*, he said.

Alcid said a few years ago one of their buyers tried to sell some of the *burnay* in France and England. After two years, the buyer stopped buying from them, he said.

Samples of the London-bound jars, like the *durian* jars of sculptor Julie Lluch Dalena, are still lying around the factory grounds.

"We don't know why the venture fizzled out," Alcid said.

The potters, on their own, had since added dragon and barrel designs but these are not as well liked as the traditional unadorned and unglazed jars.

"So we have no recourse but to do them the usual way," said Sancho.

The jars are dried and fired from the dragon kiln for three days. As many as 500 jars can be accommodated for each firing. About 50 or more are deformed because they are "overfired."

Alcid said the deformed jars are not intentional, as these "melted" jars are bought by landscape artists to complement the water lilies on overflowing *kawa* (a steel vat) in Manila gardens.

"We only sell these deformed jars at half or lesser than their actual price. Years ago, we just gave them away," Alcid said.

On the road going to Mindoro Beach here, Ernesto and Marie Palacpac are dunking flowerpots to be dried in the cruel Vigan sun. Beside them are rows and rows of Vigan tiles covered by rice straws.

Unlike the *burnay*, the Vigan tiles are fired openly. They are made to stand on end and covered with firewood and rice straws before they are set on fire. More than 150 tiles are fired monthly or twice a month depending on the demand.

Unlike the *burnay* factories, the Palacpacs and other tile makers have a harder time keeping ends meet.

Marie Palacpac said they spend more than P6,000 on firewood, rice straws and clay from Barangay Bulala.

Considering that they only sell their 12-by-12 inches tiles for P7 each and the 4-by-4 inches at P3, they only have enough to keep the business going.

Aside from the tiles, the Palacpacs also sell flowerpots, *lubon* at P200 each and the *dalikan* (clay stove) at P250. Because these kinds of pottery are available in almost every rural town in the North, most of their customers come from Ilocos Sur.

But the Vigan tiles are sold everywhere.

M'lan International Marketing in its web site, for example, sells Vigan tiles together with its Philippine marble tiles to its international buyers.

The Palacpacs, whose ancestors had been making Vigan tiles for the Vigan houses for 150 years, said they still have to see the government pay attention to their dying cottage industry.

"Many have stopped making tiles. And on most months, it is our *sari-sari* store, not our tiles, that is sustaining us," Marie Palacpac said.

Where it all started

POT MAKING is an industry that made Vigan City in Ilocos Sur famous since the 19th century, thanks to family tradition.

The Gos from China, the acknowledged experts in local pot making, came to the country in the 1800s to engage in the pottery business. Their ancestors were able to transfer their expertise in pottery to the present generation that sustained the business.

"I learned the trade from my father and I made it as my main source of livelihood," said Fidel Go, one of the descendants and owner of the Ruby Pottery in Vigan.

For his skills, Go received the Manlilikha ng Bayan (Folk Artist) award from the National Commission for Culture and Arts in 1990. "It (the recognition) was the result of long experience and continuous mastery of the industry," Go said in Ilocano.

The business, he said, has also contributed to the family's economic standing as they earn more than P200,000 yearly.

Among Go's products are the common earthen jars, decorative jars, wide mouth jars, terracotta jars, black jars and burnt red jars.

His factory also produces ashtrays and the "Armida jar," which was named after former Movie and Television, Review and Classification Board Chair Armida Siguion Reyna. The jar is urn-shaped with four to five holes on its sides that can be used as an umbrella stand.

"Armida was then looking for a jar that she can use as an umbrella stand. We designed one and had it named after her," Go said.

Go's pots sell from P20 to P1,500.

She admitted that he was initially reluctant to venture into pot making as a career.

"When I started, I was only earning small. But since it is the business that I know well, I pursued it," Go said.

He started his business with a P735-capital. He earned that amount from a delivery of his products in Laoag City in 1969. He hired four laborers and he acted as his firm's only molder.

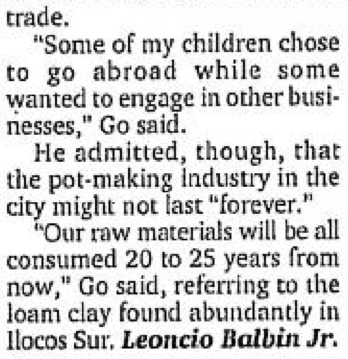
By 1995, he already had 16 laborers and three molders.

Go was able to send all his 12 children to school but only two of them decided to learn the trade.

"Some of my children chose to go abroad while some wanted to engage in other businesses," Go said.

He admitted, though, that the pot-making industry in the city might not last "forever."

"Our raw materials will be all consumed 20 to 25 years from now," Go said, referring to the loam clay found abundantly in Ilocos Sur. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr.***



FIDEL Go's ancestors pioneered the pot-making industry in Vigan City.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Cops mull raps vs lawmaker for harboring fugitive son

SURIGAO CITY—Authorities expressed impatience over the continued refusal of Surigao Rep. Glenda Ecleo to hand over her son, Ruben Jr., who is wanted in the killing of his wife.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, chief of the Criminal Intelligence and Detective Group (CIDG) in Cebu, said authorities are considering filing charges against Representative Ecleo for harboring a fugitive.

Ruben Jr., supreme master of the anti-communist cult Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), is being sought on charges he killed his wife, Alona Bacolod, early this year.

Alona's decomposing body was found in a garbage bag in the southern Cebu town of Dalaguete in January.

Ruben repeatedly denied involvement in the death of his wife, but authorities said they have evidence to link him to the crime.

"We are considering filing charges against (Representative Ecleo) for hiding her fugitive son," Diocos said in an interview.

He said he was advised by CIDG lawyers to file a case against the solon after an effort to arrest Ruben on May 25 failed. During the arrest, Ecleo told them her son was no longer in San Jose town, which is in Dinagat Island off Surigao City.

Diocos said the solon then warned the arresting team there would be bloodshed if they insisted on taking Ruben into custody.

Caraga authorities believe the younger Ecleo is hiding in San Jose, where most of his followers live. During the attempt to arrest him, some 30,000 cult members blocked the authorities' path. ***Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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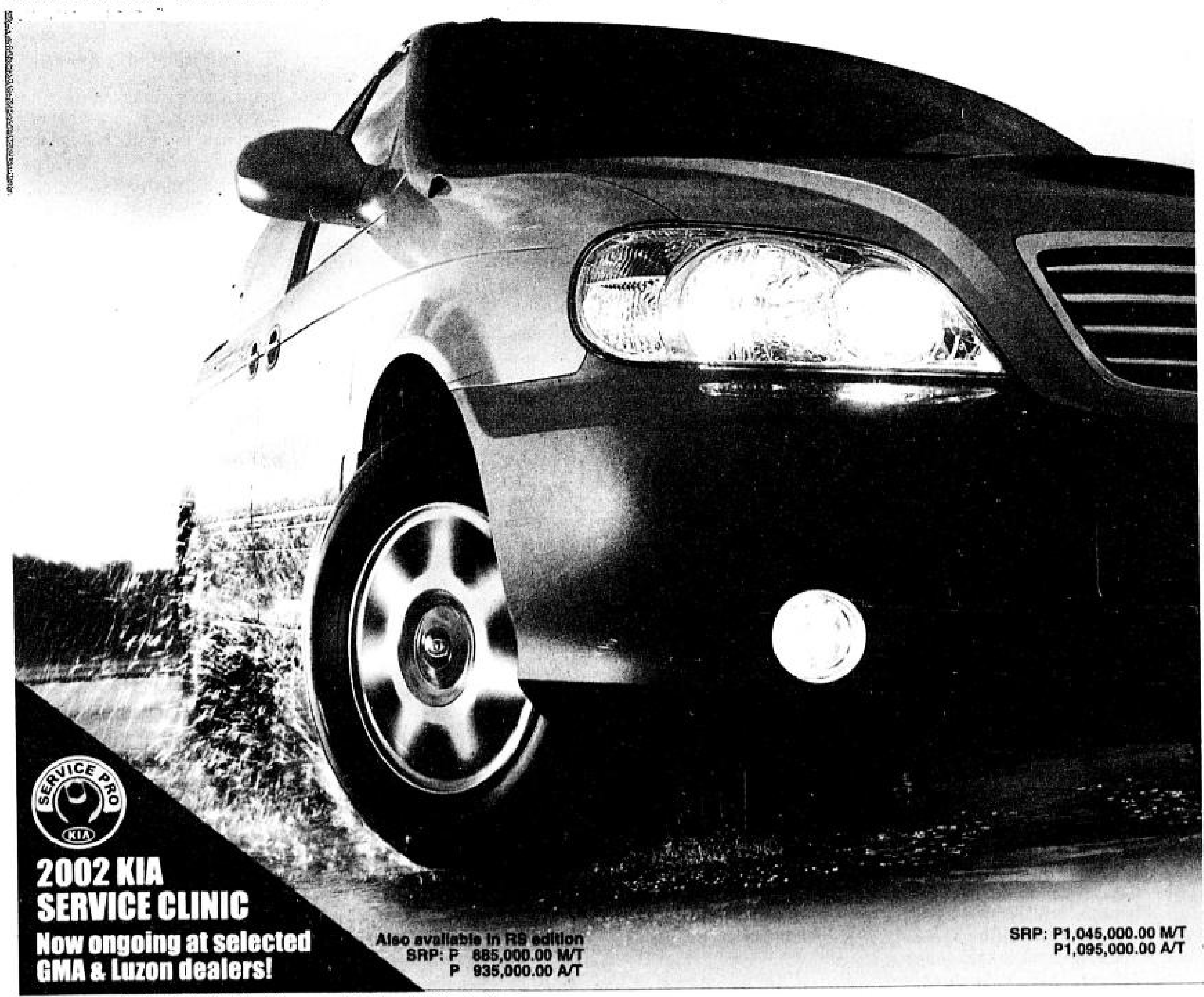

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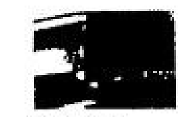
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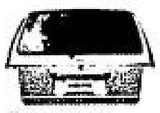
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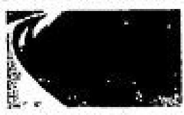
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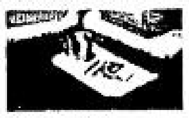
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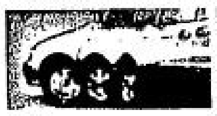
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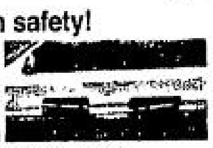
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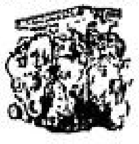
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House sympathizes with Drilon, adjourns

From page A1

the minority took turns lambasting the House leadership for the "immoral and unconstitutional adjournment."

Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico stood on a table to call the roll of members. The majority left the hall, while the Speaker, with leaders of his "Sunshine Coalition," held a press conference at the media center.

The minority, 19 out of the House's 216 members, stayed on the floor.

The House adjournment came less than an hour before the new majority of opposition senators resumed their session.

Shouting congressmen

The ruckus started at 2 p.m., when after Gonzalez opened the session Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales immediately made a motion for adjournment.

Before Gonzalez could act on Gonzales' motion, Dilangalen raised a parliamentary inquiry in a bid to prevent the impromptu adjournment.

Gonzalez ruled that a motion for adjournment was not debatable and had the highest priority among all motions.

Dilangalen, now shouting, insisted on his motion, drawing majority Rep. Rodolfo Albano to raise a point of order.

Gonzales asked Albano to state his point of order, but Dilangalen continued shouting into the microphone. Albano's point was to reinforce the adjournment, and Gonzalez declared the session adjourned sine die at 2:03 p.m.

Padilla intervened, protesting that the session cannot be adjourned unless there was an actual session first. What happened was what is known as the "open-close," when the session is adjourned or suspended just as soon as it is opened.

After the majority left the floor, the opposition took over.

Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat, a member of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, read the letter sent to the House by Sen. Blas Ople, in his capacity as new Senate President Pro Tempore, informing the House that the Senate had not adjourned contrary to the action of "only seven senators."

Ople stated that the Senate sessions will continue up to June 6.

"*Ano tayo, aso ng Senado* (What are we, the Senate's lapdogs?)," Dilangalen complained to the microphone. He was applauded by some House employees who had rushed to the gallery to witness the chaos.

"What kind of service are we giving to our constituents? We adjourned now when we have up to Thursday to hold sessions? If the majority does not want to stay, we will stay to serve the people," declared Rep. Constantino Jaraula.

"We will be here up to June 6," Suplico said.

'Highly immoral'

Jaraula cited Article 6, Section 16 of the Constitution which, he said, allows one house to hold sessions even without the other for as long as the session will not be for more than three days.

"This (adjournment) is highly immoral and unconstitutional," Padilla said.

Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, the sister of opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, said the adjournment was ironic because there were a lot of pending priority measures originally scheduled for approval before adjournment. "Now we have a quorum but the House leadership told us to go home," Castillo said.

Deputy Minority Leader Abraham Mitra described what happened as the "attack of the clones."

In their press briefing, De Venecia and leaders of the political parties in the administration coalition explained that the House had to adjourn because the Senate had already adjourned the previous day. Sessions will resume on the fourth Monday of July.

De Venecia said his colleagues "collectively" decided to adjourn the session in the House "out of respect for" Drilon, whom they stressed was still the recognized leader of the Senate.

"We are neutral in the crisis of the Senate," De Venecia said. "It is not our intention to participate in the internal affairs of the Senate. We are merely responding to an official communication from the President of the Senate whose credency is acknowledged by both sides in an official communication."

Leaders of the administration coalition in the House met Monday night to discuss a letter sent to them by Senate Secretary Oscar Yabes, informing the House leadership that Drilon had adjourned the Senate sine die.

According to Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, Drilon also called them up to "reaffirm" Yabes' letter.

"The Senate President is still recognized and should be given the necessary courtesy of the House," Gonzalez said.

Chaotic situation

De Venecia said that by continuing the session in the House, "we would have encouraged this chaotic situation in the Senate."

He noted that the House minority's "vigorous emotional protest" to the adjournment of the session yesterday was its way of "provid(ing) strategic support to the other group in the Senate."

"But in the face of this chaotic situation in the Senate where we have in effect two Senates, what would you expect the House to do?" De Venecia said.

He stressed that should the senators reconcile their differences and resolve the issue, the House was willing to go to a special session in order to approve the measures in its legislative agenda.

He said of the 14 items in the common legislative agenda of Congress, the Senate was able to approve only four against the nine approved by the House.

To a question whether the House action was in support of Drilon's camp, Majority Leader Gonzales replied: "We cannot be faulted in viewing the (House) opposition as supporting the play of the group of Senators Ople and (Edgardo) Angara in the Senate, in the same way or manner that you are viewing our action as support of the group of Frank Drilon, but would you rather view us as sleeping with the enemy?"

Liberal Party president Rep. Florencio Abad and Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, head of the Nationalist People's Coalition, rallied their parties behind the decision of the House leadership.

Teodoro said his partymates "do not want the House of Representatives to be a platform for politicking in the Senate by any party and since we have legal basis on our side, the most prudent thing is to adjourn."

Abad said that the Liberal Party thought that by continuing the session in the House, it "would have legitimized the action taken by the minority in the Senate."

"I really think that in solidarity with the majority in the Senate, we in the majority should also adjourn," Abad said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, a Lakas official, said the session had to be adjourned, but perhaps members should have been given the chance to speak.

"I think certain procedures should have been approved since the majority is in control anyway. I think the parliamentary inquiry should have been heard. It was just too fast," Lozada said.

Opposition senators continue session amid quibbling over chamber rules

From page A1

beginning of the next one.

Biazon said the memorandum confused many employees of the Senate.

Ople also wrote Speaker Jose de Venecia to retract Drilon's order of adjournment, which had been relayed to the House through a letter from Senate Secretary Oscar Yabes.

He said the adjournment was without any legal and constitutional basis, having been declared by only seven senators in a session held outside of session hours, without any Secretariat coverage, and in violation of the calendar both chambers stipulated in Concurrent Resolution No. 5 approved on July 23, 2001.

In that resolution, the sine die adjournment of session was scheduled for June 6.

But administration Sen. Joker Arroyo told reporters that after De Venecia adjourned the House session sine die, it "effectively recognizes that Drilon is still the Senate President."

"Who will recognize them?" Arroyo asked, referring to the senators in the Ople-led session. "No one. If the House and President Macapagal-Arroyo recognize Drilon, there is no other recognition more important as a kind of validity," Arroyo said.

In yesterday's session, the new majority proceeded to conduct business by electing the new Senate secretary, Demaree Raval.

SC decision

Pimentel insisted that his group was the new legal majority, citing the 1949 Supreme Court decision, Avelino vs. Cuenco. The high court ruled then that 12 senators constituted a quorum of 23 senators, because one senator was abroad at that time.

Sen. Ramon Revilla is currently in the United States recuperating from a spine operation.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III made fun of the "inability" of the administration senators to determine what constitutes a quorum, while Pimentel indulged his colleague.

"They are probably thinking of themselves as the 'illegal outlook' band of senators," Pimentel said. "Because the truth of the matter is, how can a group of seven senators prevail over what 12 senators are doing?"

Pimentel said that theoretically, the Senate President could adjourn the Senate session if there was no quorum. But he said Monday's case was "under different circumstances" because Drilon refused to call a session at 3 p.m. when they went to see him prior to the start of the session.

"That session (the evening session which Drilon called to order and in which issued the order to adjourn) is illegal because the duty of the presiding officer is not to adjourn but to call for senators to attend," Pimentel added.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the move to reorganize the Senate committees was safely anchored on jurisprudence and tradition and based on the need to speed up work on vital legislation. Out of 2,700 bills filed, he said, only 65 committee reports were passed by the various committees. "This is very small output. We could have done better," he said. He also noted that some of the committee reports lacked depth and real research.

He said the reorganization was also prompted by the need to restore the historic independence of the Senate from Malacañang. He claimed important bills were discussed privately and not officially, with the President presiding.

DRILON (center) and his colleagues laugh off the opposition takeover.

Four resolutions

The opposition senators proposed amendments to certain pieces of legislation, and Ople referred the bills to appropriate committees for inquiry.

They also adopted four resolutions, namely:

- Resolution informing President Macapagal-Arroyo that the Senate has been reorganized with the election of its officers and that the Senate has entered upon the exercise of its functions.
- Resolution informing the House the same changes.
- Resolution informing the House that the Senate will continue its business until June 6 pursuant to Concurrent Resolution No. 5.
- Resolution suspending all pending disbursements and expenditures of all committees.

But Drilon branded as "illegal" the "rump session called (Monday) by the senators of the opposition bloc"—the same session which led to Ople's election as Senate president pro tempore and the reorganization of the committee chairmanships.

"It is clear and apparent that the proceeding conducted by the opposition is farce as they did not comply with the Rules of the Senate," Drilon said.

According to him, Senate rules provide that the minority leader does not have any authority to convene a Senate session, as Pimentel did Monday afternoon.

He cited Section 6 of the Rules of the Senate which states that "in case of the temporary absence of the Senate President or the President Pro Tempore, it is the majority leader or any member designated by the Senate President who shall discharge the powers and duties of the Senate President."

"The minority leader (Pimentel) was not authorized and did not have the authority under the Rules of the Senate to convene the session," Drilon said.

Suspended rules

Drilon said the Monday session suspended the Rules of the Senate, which require a majority vote of all 24 senators to remove the Senate President and the Senate President Pro Tempore.

"Basic is the rule that one cannot benefit from one's own wrongdoing," Drilon said. "The reorganization of the Senate attempted by . . . the opposition is invalid and irregular," he added.

To underscore Drilon's leadership in the Senate, the Senate blue ribbon committee, which Arroyo chairs, suspended a hearing on the Gotesco land scam in Caloocan after "Drilon, as Senate President, informed us to adhere to the directive" that no hearing or session could be held when Congress has adjourned sine die.

"For the record, who is the Senate President?" Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, asked at one point during the hearing.

To this, Arroyo answered: "We are submitting to the request of the real Senate President, Senator Drilon."

Arroyo likewise downplayed the adverse effects of the Senate takeover by the Pimentel group because "there are only two days left in the first regular session."

"There won't be any constitutional crisis because there only two days left. Congress will not be paralyzed," he said.

Arroyo also asserted that the opposition, though now the majority, have no choice but to heed the leadership of Drilon," he said.

"(The Senate President) signs the payroll, he signs everything. The entire Senate machinery cannot function without the Senate President," Arroyo said.

He also pointed out that "for the opposition to defy Drilon, they must oust him first."

"They captured the platoons (but) they did not capture the general," Arroyo said.

Ping hits Senate report linking him to kidnapping and drug trafficking

From page A1

against him.

Lacson said over the Cebu City-based radio station dyLA that the "leaking" of the report was "malicious" and "uncalled for."

He denied allegations that opposition senators pushed for the Senate reorganization on Monday to prevent the release of the joint report of the blue ribbon committee and the committees on public order and illegal drugs and on national defense and security.

Lacson said it was the administration senators who wanted to preempt the reorganization of the Senate by releasing the report.

"*Hindi ako ganon ka* powerful and influential *sa mga colleagues ko sa* Senate (I am not that powerful and influential to my colleagues in the Senate)," the former head of the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.

"Because they got wind of the impending reorganization of the committees in the Senate, *inunahan nila* (they tried to preempt it) by leaking to the media *itong sinasabi nilang* (the so-called) committee report)," he said.

Committee Report No. 66 asked the Department of Justice to investigate Lacson's possible participation in drug trafficking and the kidnapping of six Chinese nationals.

The kidnapping "has been substantially established by prima facie evidence," the report said.

The report also recommended that Superintendents Reynaldo Acop, John Campos and Francisco Villaroman, former members of the defunct Presidential Anti Organized Crime Task Force, be charged with kidnapping and drug trafficking.

No value

But Lacson said the report had no value at all.

"It is nothing but a scrap of paper simply because it is a mere draft committee report," he said.

Lacson pointed out that the report was not official because the majority of the senators, who comprised the three committees, did not sign it.

He said the report would have been official if at least 12 of the 22 members of the three committees singed it. But only 10 senators, all belonging to the administration, signed it.

The three committees that conducted the investigation of Lacson's alleged involved in drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom are now chaired by opposition senators.

The committee on public order and illegal drugs is now chaired by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, replacing Sen. Robert Barbers; the blue ribbon committee by Edgardo Angara, replacing Sen. Joker Arroyo; and the national defense and security committee by Rodolfo Biazon, replacing Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Despite Lacson's denials, his critics maintain that the Senate reorganization was intended to suppress the report.

"This was a cover-up to suppress the truth; the opposition senators are helping one of their own who is a criminal," former anti-narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

Dracula

Ong questioned the naming of Lacson as chair of the committee on local government. "It's like putting Dracula in the Red Cross," she said.

Ong, who testified on Lacson's alleged links to kidnapping and drug syndicates before the Senate in August last year, said she expected the three Senate committees to issue the report linking Lacson to criminal activities.

"I was confident that the Senate report would favor me. There's no doubt or question about that because my case has reached the court," she said, referring to the kidnapping and drug trafficking charges she had filed against Lacson in the Department of Justice.

"It was long overdue. They could have issued the report right after the hearings," on said.

In Malacañang, Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential political adviser, insisted that the Senate coup was meant to protect Lacson.

"They sensed that the so-called Lacson report will be released," Rufino said. "So they messed up the chamber."

"They took a risk, a gamble . . . to stop the report from coming out," Rufino said.

This was the same line taken by the militant group Pamalakaya and former Socioeconomic planning secretary Solita Monsod.

"It shows how rotten the system is," said Pamalakaya national chair Hernando Hicap in a statement.

"This time the old boy club—the pro-Estrada and pro-Lacson faction—might use its majority status to protect Lacson from possible charges of kidnapping and drug trafficking, the same way pro-Macapagal solons provided ex-President Fidel Ramos full-blanket protection from the Senate's scrutiny of anomalous (power supply) contracts," Pamalakaya said.

Not keen

Despite the recommendation of the report against Lacson, the justice department is not keen on prosecuting the senator at this time.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that he could not act on the recommendation as he had not received a copy of the Senate report.

"I can't comment on that. I can't act on it until I received a copy of the Senate report," said Perez.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A. J. Teehankee said that "once, the DOJ is furnished with the report, we still have to refer it to the police or investigating agencies like the National Bureau of Investigation for investigation."

"We can't motu propio investigate it unless we receive a formal complaint from the police or NBI.

However, Teehankee said that if the subject of the recommendation was already being investigated by the DOJ, "then we would just follow-up the investigation."

Teehankee revealed that the DOJ was handling at least three cases involving Lacson or his close aides—the murder of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito in Dec. 2000; the killing of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang in May 1995; and the abduction-killing of several alleged Chinese drug lords in 1998.

"There's good news for the Dacer—Corbito case because the Court of Appeals had already allowed the DOJ to implead Chief Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar Mancao and Teofilo Viña. As for the Kuratong Baleleng case, the high court had remanded the case to the Quezon City RTC to determine whether the government can still prosecute Sen. Lacson," Teehankee said.

Teehankee said the third case—involving Chinese nationals—was elevated to the Supreme Court after a Manila judge had issued an injunction barring the DOJ from investigating the case. "It is now up for resolution," he said.

The third case was based on an affidavit executed by state witness Mary Ong, aka Rosebud. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Volt Contreras***

DENR

TODAY IS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

'Give Earth A Chance'

by Secretary HERHERSON T. ALVAREZ

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE
give earth a chance

I join the nation in observing today's global celebration of World Environment Day, and I exhort every Filipino to pause and to reflect upon the meaning and the significance of this event. World Environment Day (WED) is one of those rare but important occasions that binds humankind in one purpose—in this case, no purpose more vital and more noble than the survival of the Earth itself.

WED was conceived by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to draw global attention to the many threats and crises faced by the Earth as a result of human neglect, carelessness, greed, and mismanagement.

This year's WED theme, "Give Earth a Chance," recognizes the fact that the Earth is much more than the physical place we live in and we live off; it is, itself, a living organism that can fall ill, be injured, and eventually die. It reminds us of our God-given role and responsibility as stewards of the Earth, as its temporary guests and caretakers. Our relationship with the Earth is a symbiotic one; if we expect it to sustain our needs then we must help to sustain its welfare as well.

Unfortunately—for the Earth and for us—many people gave forgotten or overlooked this relationship. All over the planet, and even here in the Philippines, the sorry evidence of environmental degradation and abuse abounds.

We have much to do to return our air, our water, and our land to the bloom of health, as untrammeled economic development and population growth have exerted tremendous and often destructive pressure on the environment. We must act now to ensure that future generations of Filipinos will have enough to live on and to bequeath to their own descendants.

In line with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's poverty alleviation policy of creating wealth without hurting the environment, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) stands at the forefront of this effort for environmental protection and conservation and sustainable development. As DENR Secretary, and as a lifelong environmentalist, I am committed to taking every measure—whatever the political cost—to secure the well-being of our environment, and, thereby, of our people and our future.

But I cannot do this alone; I need the help of every Filipino—in government, in private industry, in our schools, homes, barangays, and workplaces—to do this job and to do it right. We face formidable enemies and obstacles—in ignorance and indifference, in entrenched political and economic interests, in the grinding poverty and desperation that have forced so many of our countrymen to abuse and to destroy the environment to feed themselves. The environment is necessarily a communal concern, with large-scale and long-term implications for everyone.

And we cannot do this by words alone. The best intentions will not save the Earth, unless they are accompanied by concrete and speedy action.

2002 has also been named the International Year of Mountains, putting emphasis on the protection and conservation of forests and watersheds, especially because of the onslaught of El Niño. We need to plant and reforest our watersheds vigorously, to turn our denuded forests into virtual lakes of life-sustaining water.

We also need to comply strictly with the Montreal Protocol on destructive ozone-depleting substances, and to ratify the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to keep some of the most lethal chemicals known to man outside of our shores.

We need to protect our coastal and marine habitat—through such means as DENR Administrative Order 17, which sets aside a 15-kilometer area along the coast for the exclusive use of small fishermen.

For a vivid DENR World Environment Week event on June 3 – 9, 2002, a Gallery of the Sea cum Regatta with a youth environmental theatre concert will be held to harness the creative energies of artists to communicate the need to protect, rehabilitate, and conserve our coastal, marine, and fresh water resources.

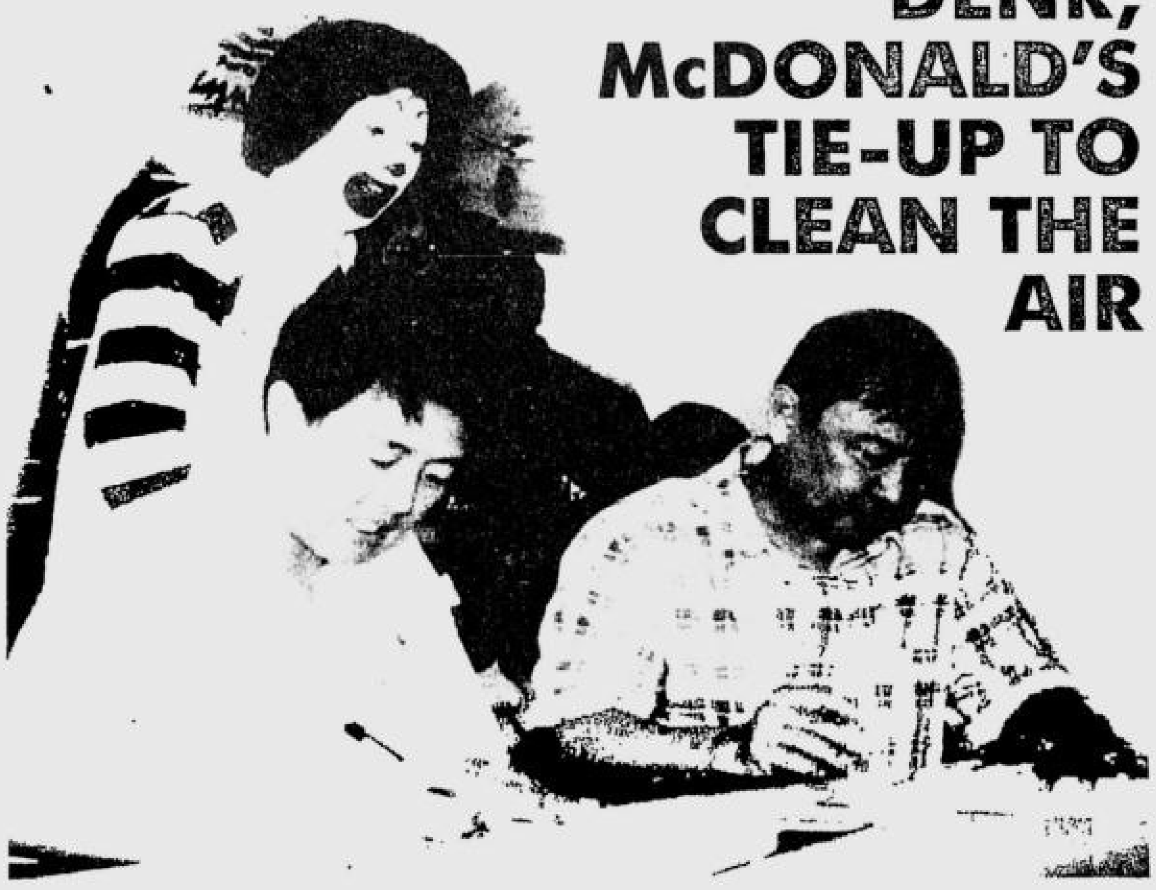
Environmental education with effective communication is essential to forge our nation's vision to save our ailing Mother Earth.

And above all, we need to find the political will and the moral courage to make the hard decisions that the protection of a mute and defenseless entity like the Earth requires.

The Earth needs every ally and every hand it can rally to its cause. Join me in the vanguard of the Earth's champions and protectors. Its survival is our survival, its good health will be our good health, its future will be our future.

Act now and do your share to keep the Earth alive and well. Give Earth a chance!

DENR, McDONALD'S TIE-UP TO CLEAN THE AIR



Environment Secretary Alvarez and McGeorge Food Industries Executive Vice President Kenneth S. Yang, local franchise holder of McDonald's, signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on posting clean air messages in McDonald's tray mats, in support of the Clean Air Act.

"This partnership aims to generate public awareness, especially among the youth and the Filipino family, on air quality issues through messages that encourage them to act on the growing need for healthy air," Alvarez said.

Under the MOA, McDonald's has volunteered its 287 outlets nationwide to serve as "conduits of information on clean air" as part of its social responsibility program, producing at least 2 million copies of tray mats for distribution to its branches nationwide.

The DENR, on the other hand, will provide the messages, concepts and artistic and visual design of the tray mats, incorporating interactive features such as puzzles and games that present the causes and effects of air pollution, including tips on how kids can help clean the air.

CLEAN AIR DRIVE PUSHED

The DENR, through the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program (MMAQISDP), will ensure the effective implementation of Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act of 1999, Secretary Alvarez stressed.

"Despite the lack of budgetary support, the MMAQISDP, now funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will continue to promote policy reforms to improve the quality of air in Metro Manila as the lead agency in the Act's implementation," he said.

The environment chief recently facilitated the approval, for release by the ADB, the second tranche of the loan package that will be used to upgrade the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems for the Metro Manila Airshed.

Early this year, he signed Administrative Order No. 2002-05 designating parts of Regions III, IV and the entire National Capital Region (NCR) as part of the Metro Manila Airshed and created an interim governing board that will formulate and carry out action plans to clean the air within the airshed.

To date, there are four more airsheds designated in the cities of Davao, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, and in the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR).

BRIGADES vs POLLUTION

Today, the Philippines joins more than 120 countries all over the world in celebrating World Environment Day with the international theme, *'Give Earth a Chance.'*

The local theme, *'Fight for Life! Fight Pollution!'* is our way of giving our planet a change as we wage a renewed war against all kinds of pollution together with WED-Philippine Network and its web of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), peoples organizations (POs), industries, the private sector and other government institutions.

The theme is relevant as the Philippines is addressing its problem on air pollution in keeping up with the mandates of Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act of 1999.

The Clean Air Act is a landmark legislation co-authored by Alvarez as legislator, that sets into motion a comprehensive air quality management policy and program which aims to achieve and maintain healthy air.

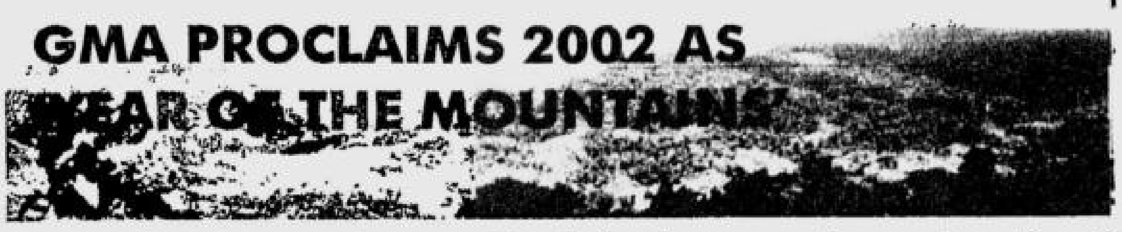
Public awareness on the provisions of the Act is needed to mobilize citizen participation in the clean air program.

The DENR, therefore, launches today an intensified information dissemination campaign against all types of pollution through the 'deployment' of the *Brigades Against Pollution (BAP)* in various shopping malls, schools, and parks to distribute information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on environmental protection and conservation.

The Brigades will distribute printed materials and give tips on how you and I can help stop pollution, with a special focus on urban degradation, simplified into easy-to-read and easy-to-understand pamphlets and hand-outs.

Metro Manila malls have already agreed to host the Brigades and the DENR expects to replicate this in all public places throughout the country These malls include SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM North Avenue, Alabang Town Center, Coastal MallPrice Smart, Glorietta, Sta Lucia East, Eastwood, Ever Gotesco Mall, Metropolis, Northridge, Plaza, Ever Gotesco Commonwealth, Tutuban Center, and Festival Mall in Quezon City.

GMA PROCLAIMS 2002 AS 'YEAR OF THE MOUNTAINS'



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has declared Year 2002 as "The Year of the Mountains" and the month of June of every year as "Month of the Mountains in the Philippines" through Presidential Proclamation No. 176.

The declaration was among the priority programs being pushed by Secretary Alvarez to promote the conservation and sustainable development of mountainous regions.

"Our mountain ecosystems support life itself, acting as carbon sinks which eat up much of the carbon dioxide that we throw into the atmosphere. Aside from the biodiversity and wildlife it contains, mountain regions also support vital aquifers that form part of our watersheds," Alvarez stressed.

RP Lauded for Pro-Poor Program

The [illegible] international community has lauded the Philippines for establishing programs for the country's [illegible] million poor [illegible]rmen and [illegible] their families through the signing of DENR Administrative Order No. 17 (DAO-17) which Secretary [illegible] issued last year.

DAO [illegible] limi[illegible]nicipal wa[illegible] the [illegible]sive use of [illegible] m[illegible]nalized [illegible]men in su[illegible]rt of the 1991 [illegible]cal G[illegible]nment Code, Section 13[illegible]r), and reinforced by [illegible]lic Act 8550 or the [illegible] Code of 1998, [illegible] municipal waters from 7 km. to 15 km.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) miss[illegible] director Patricia K. Buck[illegible] [illegible]nked the DENR for the "[illegible]ntinued attention to the [illegible] of overfishing" when it [illegible]-17.

Ind[illegible] Minister of Marine [illegible] and Fisheries Ro[illegible]min Dahuri congratulated the Philippine government for [illegible] they called "a model [illegible] for archipelagic island [illegible] in the ASEAN region [illegible]volving a "wise use of coastal waters."

[illegible]dia giant [illegible]tish Broadcasting Corp[illegible]tion (BBC) also featured DAO-17 as [illegible] law which gives fis[illegible]men a weapon to fight b[illegible] commercial trawlers, [illegible] BBC reporter S[illegible]n [illegible]gram calling DAO-17 "the schem[illegible] that could be the last [illegible] local tu[illegible] [illegible]cks, a[illegible]eserv[illegible] the [illegible]life" of [illegible]al [illegible]den[illegible]

[illegible]ring its national c[illegible]on in December la[illegible] year, the 1,500-strong L[illegible] of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP) passed a resolution fully supporting and thanking Alvarez for issuing DAO-17.

PROGRAMME of ACTIVITIES

June 1	**MOA signing between DENR and McDonald's for Clean Air**
June 5	**Launching of the Brigades Against Pollution** **a. Distribution of IEC materials to major malls in metropolis** **b. Signature Campaign** **Roadside Show Presentation for the Living Lakes**
June 10	**Conferring the following awards to DENR employees:** **a. Bayani ng Kalikasan** **b. MATB Topnotcher's Award** **c. Service Award for Retirees** **d. Awards for the "Palaro Alay sa Inang Kalikasan"** **UNDP- ENR Framework Plan- Preparation Experts Consulation** **DENR Day /Anniversary**
June 17	**Kick-off program for International Year of the Mountains**
June 19-21	**Laguna de Bay: A Lake for Life Stakeholder's Conference- Living Lakes** **Training on Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention for New Pollution Control Officers**
Juen 26-28	**First National Conference on Environmental Legislations**
June 27-29	**Philippine Sustainable Mountain Development Summit**
June 30	**Project Launching** **a. Global Environment Fund (GEF) Supported "Laguna Integrated Ecosystem Management of Laguna de Bay Region"** **b. WB/Netherlands funded "Laguna de bay Strengthening and Community Participation (LISCOP)" Project**

WORLD CUP ASIA DAY

C. Rica beats China; Belgium-Japan draw

Marigomen overall champion

THE 4th Trans Diversified Group (TDG) Friends & Partners Golf Tournament was held recently at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf & Country Club with close to 100 participants.

Sponsored annually by TDG for its business partners and friends in both the private and government sector, the tournament attracts top executives from local and multinational companies with Korean Airlines' Marigomen emerging overall champion with a net 68.

John Koncheloe of Emery International wound up low gross champion with a net 69.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Group A								
Denmark	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Senegal	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
France	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Group B								
Spain	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
Paraguay	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
South Africa	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Group C								
Costa Rica	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Brazil	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Turkey	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
China	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Group D								
Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group E								
Germany	1	1	0	0	8	0	+8	3
Rep Ireland	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	1	0	8	-8	0
Group F								
Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	0
England	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Sweden	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Group G								
Italy	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Mexico	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Ecuador	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Group H								
Belgium	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Japan	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

COSTA Rica's Mauricio Wright (left) scoring against China's goalkeeper Jiang Jin yesterday. Costa Rica won, 2-0. In Group D, Korea beat Poland, 2-0. AP

YOKOHAMA, Japan—It wasn't China's day as "Asia" day dawned Tuesday at the World Cup.

In the opening match for both sides in Group C, Ronald Gomez and Mauricio Wright scored second-half goals as Costa Rica defeated China, 2-0, in Gwangju, South Korea.

The match was China's first in a World Cup finals, but the newcomers never challenged with Gomez scoring on a rebound in the 61st and Wright on an angled header in the 65th.

"No talk yet about qualifying for the second round," Gomez said, looking ahead to matches with Turkey and Brazil. "We have to start thinking about Turkey and they will be tougher."

Costa Rica coach Alexanpan was hoping for a better result than Milutinovic.

Milutinovic has a sterling record. The nomadic Serb is appearing in his fifth consecutive World Cup and has coached his other four past the first round - Costa Rica, Mexico, the United States and Nigeria.

In yesterday's other game, Belgium and Japan fought to a 2-2 draw in Saitama, Japan, in Group H.

Among the favorites to win the 32-nation tournament, only defending champion France has an opening loss, the stunner to Senegal, 1-0, last Friday.

The French not only face an uphill struggle just to survive the first round, they also have World Cup history to weigh them down. No team ever has lost its opening game and won the title.

Brazil overcame Turkey thanks to a 50th-minute goal by Ronaldo off a cross by Rivaldo, and the late penalty from Rivaldo. *AP*

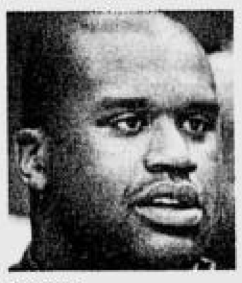
MasterCard Team

YOKOHAMA, Japan—For the third straight Fifa World Cup, the MasterCard All-Star Team program will both recognize and honor the top players of the tournament and support Unicef. Sixteen players will be selected to the MasterCard All-Star Team by the Fifa Technical Study Group, a panel comprised of 10 technical study group members representing UEFA, Conmebol, CAFT, Concacaf and AFC.

STILL AT IT

American Andre Agassi, the senior citizen of world tennis, stretches to return a forehand to France's Paul-Henri Mathieu in the French Open yesterday at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. Agassi won, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. In another match, Marat Safin defeated Arnaud Di Pasquale, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, to score his fourth straight quarterfinal appearance in a major. AP

LA's Jackson: Nets play with a lot of emotion



O'NEAL

JACKSON

LOS ANGELES —After winning one of the most riveting series in playoff history, the Los Angeles Lakers still need four wins over the New Jersey Nets to earn their third straight title and a spot in the record books for their coach.

But if ever the NBA Finals series could possibly be considered an afterthought, it's now.

After all, the Lakers are 9-1 favorites over the upstart Nets after beating the Sacramento Kings in a series many believe determined the championship.

One problem could be a letdown, at least early in the best-of-seven series. The Lakers were indeed tested by the Kings in the Western Conference finals and were left with little time to gear up for the Nets.

"The Nets play with a lot of emotion, they play with a lot of moxie," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We felt confident that the winner of this conference would win the series and we still believe it."

"Deep, deeper than we've ever dug before," Derek Fisher said after his team's 112-106 overtime victory in Game 7 at Sacramento.

"I would say that it was grueling," Shaquille O'Neal said.

The Lakers, who took Monday off to rest, were to practice Tuesday in nearby El Segundo.

Game 1 is Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila) at Los Angeles' Staples Center. Game 2 also will be in Los Angeles on Friday (Saturday in Manila) before the series shifts to New Jersey for Games 3, 4 and, if necessary, 5. *AP*

Latvia downs RP five

THE PHILIPPINE basketball team to the Asian Games succumbed to Latvia, 79-54, Monday night during the opener of the three-day Selecta RP-Euro Basketball Challenge at the Palasciogni gym in Sondrio, Italy.

The national squad, made up of PBA superstars, fought the Latvians on even terms in the early going but errors piled up in the second half that led to the setback.

Asi Taulava, Danny Seigle and Eric Menk were instrumental in giving the Nationals a 12-8 lead but the Latvians erased the deficit just as quick and closed out the half with a 45-38 bubble.

Probably absorbing the ill-effects of jet lag due to a long-haul flight the other day, the Filipinos then folded up in the second half as they fell into a rash of turnovers.

The Nationals surrendered nine steals and 11 turnovers in the final two periods that aided the Latvian breakaway.

National team head coach Jong Uichico, however, took the blame for the loss.

The Philippines plays host Italy on the second day of action in the Selecta RP-Euro Basketball Challenge.

LATVIA 79—Helmanis 14, Vecvagars 14, Buskevics 8, Bagatskis 7, Purnis 7, Valejko 7, Vitols 7, Skirmants 5, Skele 5, Blums 3, Petersons 2.

SELECTA-RP 54—Menk 12, Seigle 11, Taulava 8, Cariaso 7, Espino 4, Pennisi 4, Racela 3, Fernandez 3, Jackson 2, Hatfield 0, Hontiveros 0, Duremdes 0.

Halftime: 45-38

PBL holds 2 crucial games today

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo-Hapee	10	5
ICTSI-La Salle	10	6
Kutitap	10	6
Blu Sun Power	10	6
Shark	6	10

GAMES TODAY (Makati)

3 p.m.—Shark vs ICTSI-La Salle

5 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee vs Kutitap

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation seeks to bolster its frontrunning position as it tackles Kutitap, while ICTSI-La Salle eyes to bounce back when it meets Shark Energy Drink today in the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Kutitap needs a victory to assure itself of at least a playoff for the second finals slot, while Ateneo wants to stop a two-game skid and remain clear of its closest pursuers in what is termed as the closest finals race in recent years.

The Ateneo-Kutitap game is set at 5 p.m., after the 3 p.m. clash between ICTSI-La Salle and Shark Energy Drink. Shark is already out of the running for a finals slot, while La Salle aims to break loose from a three-way tie for second place.

Ateneo coach Joel Banal and Kutitap mentor Koy Banal are tied 1-1 in their matchups. The Blue Eagles prevailed in the elims, 67-66, but the Sparklers answered with a 77-68 in the semis.

Buoyed up by its 65-63 win over La Salle on Monday, Koy said Kutitap has set its sight on a bigger prize:

"We want to emerge No. 1 so that we'll no longer experience a playoff. Right now, the team's confidence level is high," said Koy.

SM Megamall hosts billiard, bowling June 7

HE AUTOMOTIVE industry will hold its second billiard and bowling competition on June 7 at the SM Megamall Bowling Center to be participated in by 12 teams representing the country's leading car and motorcycle manufacturers.

According to Homer Maranan, tournament director, the annual event dubbed as the Second Automotive Industry Sports Festival is a joint project of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Phils. Inc. (Campi), Automotive Industry Board Foundation Inc. (AIBFI) and Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association (MDPPA). Sponsored by SM Phils., and Total Petroleum, the 9 ball and bowling challenge aims to promote camaraderie and friendly competition among the officers and employees in the industry. Maranan said the 9-ball contest will feature 24 cue stick pushers, 2 from each team, in a double round elimination with the top four to slug it out in the race to 7 finals. In the bowling event, the 12 events (4 players each) will play a double round elimination to trim the field to 4 finalists. The team with the highest score in the final round wins the 2002 crown, Maranan said. During the initial staging of the sportsfest, Transfarm Inc. bagged the 9-ball segment while Kawasaki won the bowling competition.

SPORTSWATCH

No surgery for Michael Jordan

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan has decided not to have surgery on his left knee as he considers whether to play another season with the Washington Wizards, a source close to Jordan said Monday. Jordan had surgery on his right knee in February, causing him to cut short his comeback season. He played 60 games before going on the injured list in early April. The operation repaired torn cartilage and cleaned up some of the wear and tear the joint had accumulated over 14 NBA seasons. Jordan said at the time that he was considering having offseason surgery on the left knee as a precaution, so a similar problem wouldn't flare up should he decide to play next season. "He will not have the left knee surgery," the source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press. *AP*

Couples for Christ golfest June 11

HE COUPLES for Christ, South B 5A Chapter, will hold its 4th Swing for a Cause Golf Tournament on June 11 at Wack Wack. Tee-off time is from :00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The proceeds of the tournament will finance the chapter's various projects for the poor. The event will be sponsored by San Miguel Corporation, Red Bull, Pagcor, PCSO, Tabacalera, Fortune Tobacco, Mannabishi, Ambassador Appliances and St. Pancratius Printing. For more details, call Danny Syquio at 0918-5339193 or Jess Pinugu at 0917-3618862.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: French Open 2002, Quarterfinals beginning at 6 p.m. on Sky Cable and Home Cable 29

BASKETBALL: 2002 ABC Champions Cup 3rd Place at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: The 2002 Masters, Day Three Highlights at 1:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Rotary golf to feature Bacolod caddies

A TOURNAMENT among the top caddies of Negros will spice up the much-awaited 16th edition of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) southern leg in Bacolod on June 13-15.

Dubbed as the RGFFP All-Negros Caddies Championship, the tourney will feature the Top 10 caddies of the Negros Occidental Golf Club, Bacolod Golf Club and Victorias Golf Club.

The 35-hole eliminations will be on June 10 (Marapara) and June 11 (Binitin). The top four will advance to the finals on June 15 at Marapara where they will dispute gift certificates worth P10,000, P5,000, P3,000 and P2,000.

"It's mainly for talent search and development. We would like to be of help to the caddies who are talented enough to be tapped for advanced training," said RGFFP president Poch Borromeo.

Meanwhile, today is the last day of registration for the tourney sponsored by Taylor Made Adidas, PLDT, Cebu Pacific and Casino Filipino with the support of L'Fisher Hotel, RGFFP chair Bimbo Salazar's La Salle Bacolod High School Batch '67, Asahi Glass, General Nutrition Centers, Menzi&Co. and PDG Nemesio Peralta.

Tournament fee is P2,800 if paid today but will increase to P4,000 if paid after today. Call 721-0564/721-8896 for other details.

'PMAer' Gloria invited at Camp Aguinaldo tilt

MACAPAGAL

THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy Class '78 has invited their most prominent adopted classmate, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to hit the ceremonial ball for their 18-hole fund-raiser on June 8 at Camp Aguinaldo.

Aside from the President, other top brass of various branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have also been invited to the PriceSmart-PMA Class '78 Golf Classic, the proceeds of which will go to the Makatarungan Foundation.

The Foundation was set up by the sponsoring class for its various outreach projects, most especially in helping the children of deceased classmates.

Organizing committee head Col. Delfin Bangit said that donors are putting up an array of merchandize prizes that will certainly make the Classic an event to look forward to. Tee-off starts as early as 6 a.m.

Bangit added that the System 36 format of scoring will be used to balance the competition especially for those without established handicaps.

PriceSmart, formerly known as the S & R Price Membership Shopping with branches at The Fort, Congressional Avenue and Ortigas Avenue, is the major sponsor.

Forest Hills Tradition champ; Ilagan not Hagan

ORGANIZERS of the Tradition Golf have rectified their mistake and declared the Forest Hills Group 3 team as champion and the whole team as overall first runner-up in the 7th Tradition Golf held last December.

In a May 9 letter sent to Victor de Guzman, Forest Hills' sports and games chair, the organizers apologized for the error in the tallying of the final overall scores. Members of the Group 3 team were De Guzman, Eric Villarica, Tonton San Diego, Reggie San Diego and Mar Naval.

Meanwhile, it was Marty Ilagan and not "Mary Hagan" who partnered with Larry Patnongon in winning the Forest Hills Invitational at Forest Hills last weekend. The INQUIRER regrets the error.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Robert Vargas scored a 2-0 victory over R. Rhanaraj to win a bronze medal in the 9th Asian Taekwondo Championships in Taipei.

National bowlers hold sway

MEMBERS of the RP bowling team continued to hold sway in both the singles and all events of the 31st Boysen-PBC International Open at the Green Valley Country Club in Pasig.

Irene Benitez, Liza del Rosario and Ces Yap kept their 1-2-3 positions in the singles class O, with Benitez's four-game series of 977 pinfalls still to be toppled in the meet which also serves as the third leg of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2002.

Benitez's 1829 also topped the all events class O, followed by the 1711 of Yap and 1709 of Liza Clutario, another RP team member.

Danne Pomasin however, relegated early class A leader of the same event, Rory Villena, to second when he rolled 790 pinfalls on the third day of the tournament sponsored by Boysen, Philippine Sports Commission, Prudential Guarantee, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart ILO Construction, Regent Foods, Kegel Asia and Manila Galleria Suites, the official hotel of the event.

Mika leads challenge

WORLD Pool Champion Mika Immonen, the "Fantastic Finn," was scheduled to arrive late yesterday with ace Japanese player Kunihiro Takahashi for the Motolite World 9-Ball Challenge which opens at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow.

The two other members of the "Rest of the World" squad, US Open champion Corey Duel, the young American sensation, and three-time world champion and five-time US Open champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, are scheduled to arrive today.

The "Philippines Best" will be led by "The Magician" Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Antonio Lining and rising star Dennis Orcullo.

Tight race in derby

IT'S still anybody's race in this year's National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby circuit which winds up tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

After last Monday's three-cock elimination matches, King Cobra of the unsinkable James Chiongbian, BL RQP RFP of Boy Lechon and RQP and Mulawin of Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano scored three points to tow the field entering today's four-cock finals.

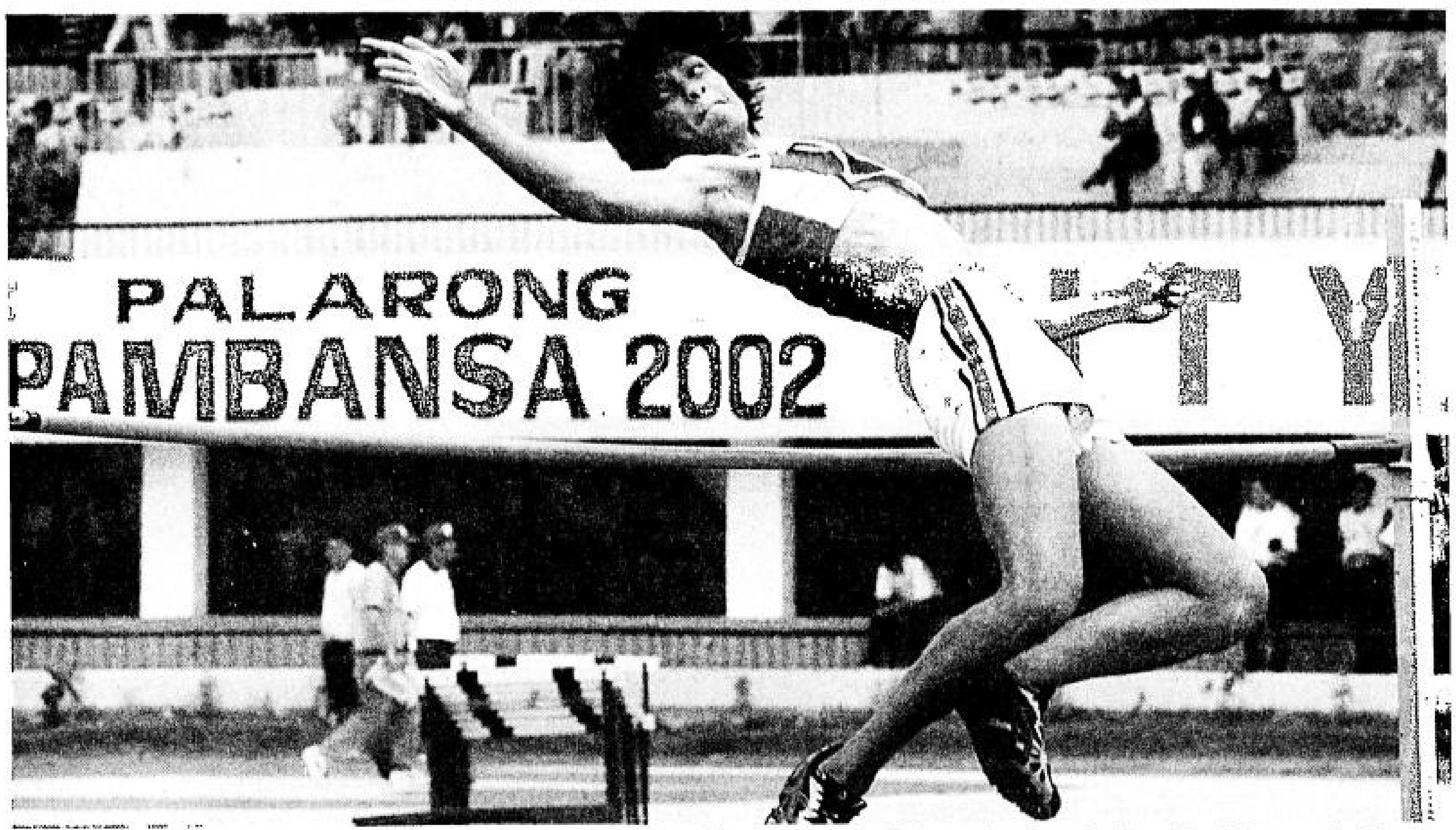
Meanwhile, everything is in readiness for the keenly awaited World Slasher 8-Cock Derby on June 17, 19 and 21 hosted by Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Ito Ynares and the Firefly Group. Noted American cocker-breeders from Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, California, Guam, Hawaii, Japan and Malaysia are taking part in this international derby which is now widely accepted as the "Olympics of Cockfighting."

5K fun run set June 8

THE ASSOCIATION of Makati Industries will hold its 2nd 5K Corporate Fun Run on June 8 at Rockwell in Makati City.

The fun run is AMI's contribution to the week-celebration of the founding anniversary of the City of Makati. The activity is expected to be participated in by employees of member-companies of AMI, The Makati City Hall and some Makati PNP personnel.

Call 843-4149, 893-2936, 687-2865 or 687-2868 for other details.



MARIZ Cotoner of Nagcarlan, Laguna, clears the bar in a record-breaking fashion in the Palarong Pambansa in Naga City. Cotoner ruled the women high jump by clearing 1.60 meters.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Palaro marks fall ...

From page A24

But it was Lumabao, son of vegetable farmers from San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, who took home the P10,000 cash incentive dangled by the Philippine Sports Commission for the first athlete who can set a new record.

The 17-year-old Lumabao, a protegé, of former Gintong Alay chief Michael Keon, threw the spear 59.18 meters, surpassing the previous mark held by Dandee Gallenero (58.52m) back in 1997.

When asked about his performance, Lumabao credited his big appetite for vegetables. "My parents are correct, vegetables really make you strong," he said.

Cotoner, a 16-year-old Hotel and Restaurant Management student from University of Perpetual Help in Biñan, Laguna, reset the high jump standard by clearing 1.60 meters that broke Narcisa Atienza's 1.56m made in 1997.

Later in the day, Marlo Alcon Dacanay ruled the boys' elementary 200m freestyle for the National Capital Region's first gold, while Western Visayas' Carmela Nava dominated the girls' elementary 200m freestyle. Roman Borja won the gold in the boys' secondary 400m freestyle.

PSC chair Eric Buhain donned his swimming trunks once again yesterday to signal the start of the swimming competition, flashing traces of his old self in the 50-meter breaststroke and 50m backstroke.

Two to watch: Bata and Mika

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

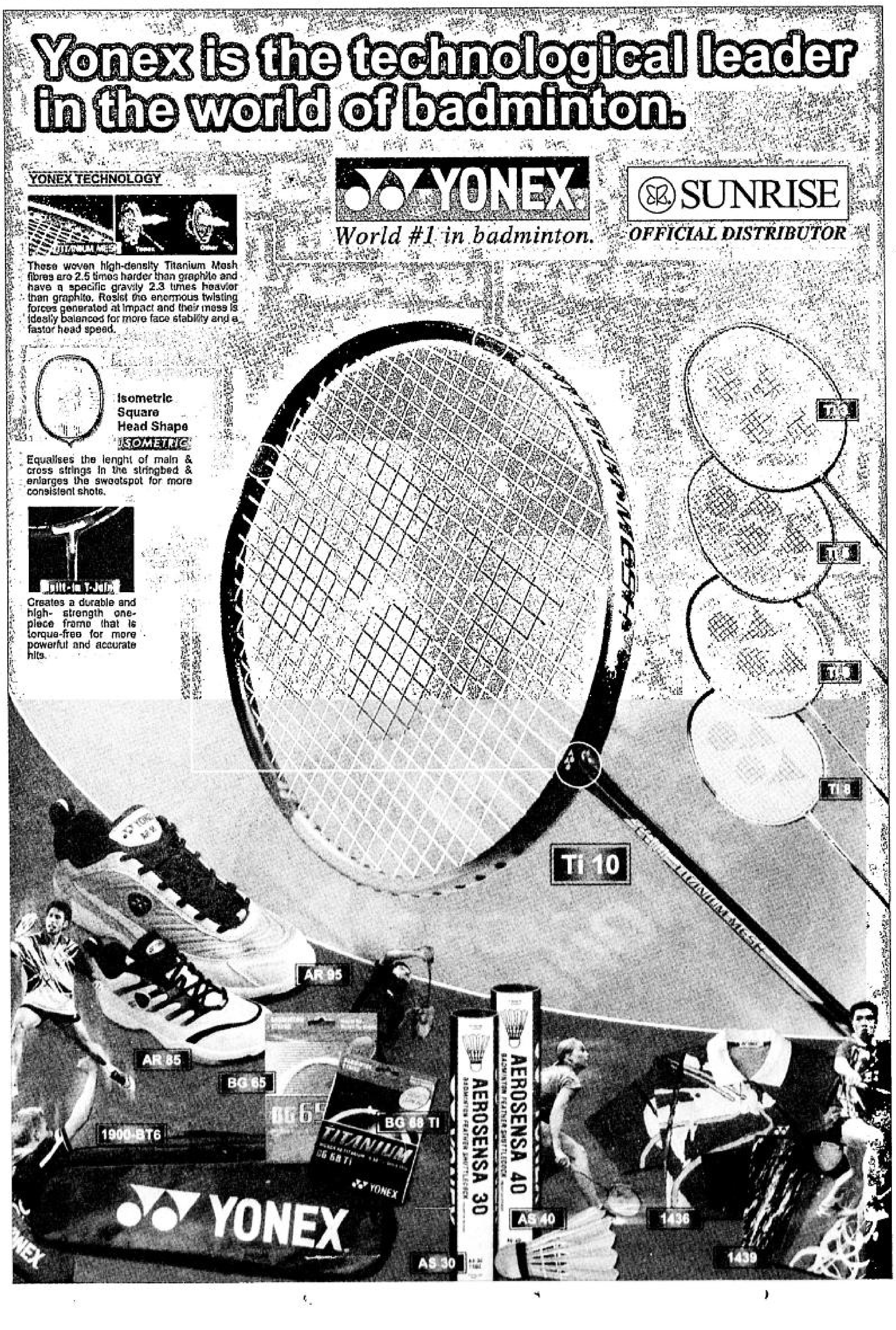
GIVEN the tough and tested field, it will not be exactly a walk in the park for local idol Efren "Bata" Reyes in the $40,000 Motolite World 9-Ball Challenge which gets going tomorrow at the landmark Araneta Coliseum. Still, I am picking Bata, "The Magician," to beat the handpicked hotshots in this tournament because he is thinking player who takes as much pride in his awesome safety game as he does in his shot-making skills although he admits to having a weak break.

"Some players have a powerful break, but in the long run they lose some of their strength," the 47-year-old Reyes said in an interview. "Over a long match I don't suffer from my weak break."

Set for June 6-11, the Motolite 9-Ball Challenge is the biggest, richest and most exciting billiards bash in the country this year. It will pit the Philippines' Best against the Rest of the World.

Carrying the national colors are Reyes and Puyat Sports teammates Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Antonio "Nikoy" Lining and upcoming Dennis Orcullo. Opposing them are current US Open winner Corey Deuel, the 23-year-old American who defeated Reyes in Japan recently; five-time world titleholder Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, Japan's world-ranked Kumihiro Takahashi and reigning World Pool champion Mika Immonen of Finland, the player I fancied as the most likely rival of Reyes in the final.

Why Mika Immonen? It's because Immonen, who is only 29, has proven that he is confident, thoroughly cool and calculated even under tremendous pressure. Then virtually unknown, Immonen made sports history last year when he won the World Pool 9-Ball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Ateneo edges Xavier, wins Puma crown

ATENEO nosed out Xavier in an exciting finals, 6-5, to bag the title in the Puma invitational street soccer tournament Monday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Masbate crushed Laguna Eagles, 6-2, to finish third in the event organized by IMG, presented by Puma and supported by Burlington, National Sports Grill, Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot, Puma Eyewear, Tokyo Tokyo and 103.5 K Lite.

Ateneo's Michael Gamboa and Carlo Luigi Robes were named most valuable player and best goalkeeper, respectively, while Masbate's Mark Marcaida took the best striker award by scoring 38 goals.

Xavier received the Chris Monfort Fair Play Award from the late Philippine Football Federation general secretary's wife Gina.

Ateneo ripped Laguna Eagles, 8-1, while Xavier nosed out Masbate, 6-5, in the semifinals.

The other Ateneo players are John Anthony Robes, Kurt Alvarez, Cyrus Caballes, Rex Kapunan and Miguel Tuason while the coach is Bob Manlolo.

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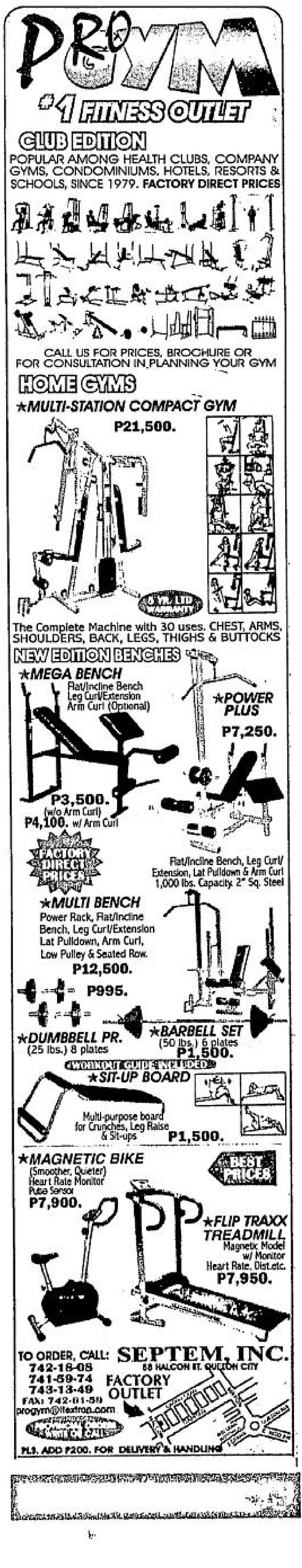
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Palaro marks fall; S. Mindanao leads

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY—Records fell in track and field even as Southern Mindanao grabbed the overall lead with two gold medals yesterday at the start of the 2002 Palarong Pambansa at the Metro Naga Sports Complex.

Jeramie Tamles and Dina Trabucon topped the boys' elementary triple jump and the girls' elementary shot put, respectively, to give their region the early lead in the weeklong search for the country's future athletic stars.

Tamles jumped 12.38m to best Raymund Jed Gabuya and improve the meet's previous mark of 12.26m set by Esmael Alamin two years ago. Trabucon threw the shot put 9.42m to beat the 9.20m of National Capital Region's Mary Jane Miano.

Tracksters Alleloid Lumabao and Marriz Cotoner touched off the record-breaking trend in the morning when they erased Palaro marks in winning the boys' secondary javelin throw and girls' secondary high jump gold medals, respectively.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

DAVID

- **Bal David's ex seeks child support** /A26

- **Stolen cars, van recovered** /A26
- **Bare Eye: Hope Lennox doesn't do a Sacramento on Sunday** /A26

NBI has new 'major' witness in Kuratong

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday said it has a new "major" witness in the 1995 rubout of 11 members of the Kuratong-Baleleng gang.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco announced this even as former Kuratong witness Armando Capili sought the bureau's protection saying that suspicious-looking men started shadowing him after the Supreme Court decided last week to remand the case to the Quezon City court.

Capili is willing to be a witness again against those who carried out the Kuratong rubout, according to Wycoco.

The new witness is a member of the PNP-Traffic Management Group, according to Wycoco.

"He was also there," he said of the witness. "He was very much involved in the arrest of (Kuratong leader) Wilson Sorronda."

Members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, led by then Senior Supt. Panfilo Lacson, had said they arrested Sorronda on the night of May 17, 1995 in Parañaque. The following day, Sorronda was one of the 11 sus-

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What Drives You

Stolen cars, van recovered

By Agnes E. Donato and Tina Santos

AFTER the Central Police District Anti-Carnapping Task Force recovered 20 stolen cars in Quezon City in April and May, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor said yesterday that incidents of car thefts in the city, known as the "carnap capital of the metropolis," remain at a very manageable level.

"Statistics don't lie," Tor said in a statement.

The Inquirer learned that 87 vehicles were reported stolen in Quezon City during the same period.

Inspector Cherry Lou Balanay of the CPD public information office said this figure included cars as well as motorcycles and other vehicles.

Tor said the stolen cars recovered in Quezon City were found in operations conducted by the CPD Anti-Carnapping Task Force from May 28 to 30.

He said the operation also led to the arrest of some of the suspected car thieves, including Antonio Cajudo, Roniel Trinidad, Bienvenido Muñoz and Wilson Borromeo.

They are now facing charges of robbery, kidnapping, frustrated homicide and illegal possession of firearms, police said.

The first to be recovered was a silver Honda City model 2002 owned by Irene Cruz of Fairview, Quezon City, Tor said.

Records showed that suspected members of the Parohinog car theft gang in Lagro, Quezon City stole the car at gunpoint on March 24.

Buyers of two other cars—a 1995 silver Honda Civic and a 1997 light blue Toyota Corolla XL—surrendered the vehicles when they learned these were stolen.

Borromeo, the suspected financier and in charge of selling and marketing the stolen vehicles, has pending cases, including 17 counts of large-scale estafa and illegal recruitment, investigation showed.

Cajudo and Trinidad have pending cases of robbery and physical injury in courts in Quezon City and Roxas City, police said.

In Valenzuela City, police on Monday recovered a 10-wheeler container van containing food and soap products worth P700,000, which was hijacked a month ago in Tarlac province.

Police found only two tetra packs of juice in the van when the blue Isuzu track (UDE-990), owned by RXZ Five-Star Merchandising on M. Crisologo Street in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, was inspected at 11:45 a.m. on Monday.

Inspector Salvador de la Cruz of the Valenzuela Police Station Investigation Branch said that on June 1, an unidentified man was seen parking the van last in front of Goodway Hardware on McArthur Highway in Dalandan, Valenzuela. He said they found the van keys and the license of its driver, Rolando Estoesta, and pertinent papers in the name of van owner Domingo Go.

Go told police the van was hijacked on May 3 in Barangay Tanex, San Miguel, Tarlac.

Zuñiga, 48

ZION Zuñiga, elder brother of singer Nonoy Zuñiga, died of a massive heart attack yesterday morning.

Zion, 48, was vice president of Far Eastern Broadcasting Corp. He is survived by his wife Ana and children Iñaki and Hannah.

His body lies at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship (GCF) Church along Alabang- Zapote Road, between Citibank and PLDT near McDonald's and Ford Philippines. Burial will be on Friday, June 7.

Malabon City engineer in graft case dies

MALABON City Mayor Amado Vicencio blamed the opposition for the death of one of his co-respondents in a graft case in connection with the shelved P122-million new city hall project.

Engineer Virdeo Cruz succumbed to a heart attack on Wednesday, the same day that his son, Jose Jozaldy Cruz, died reportedly due to kidney failure, according to city hall employees.

The engineer's death came a day after he, Vicencio and four other respondents pleaded not guilty during their arraignment in the graft case.

City hall employees said Virdeo was on his way home from Baguio City when he suffered a heart attack after learning of the death of his son.

A city government employee, who was present during Monday morning's flag ceremony at the Malabon City Hall, quoted Vicencio as saying, "Good people like him (engineer Cruz) should not be dragged into this kind of accusations. He was a good man."

The Inquirer tried calling Vicencio several times but was told that he was in a meeting.

Opposition Councilors Edilberto Torres and Chiqui Roque-Villaroel had filed the graft charges against Vicencio and the others.

Torres yesterday said the opposition should not be blamed for Cruz's death.

"Vicencio should not blame anybody," Torres said. "He should instead blame himself. If it were not for the anomalous contract which he entered into, these people (Cruz and the other respondents) would not have been dragged into the case."

Torres also clarified that Cruz and the four other respondents were not included in their complaint.

"In the first place, why would (Vicencio) blame us?" the councilor said. "We filed a complaint only against him. It was the Ombudsman that implicated Cruz and the others since they were members of the local pre-qualification, bid and awards committee which signed the contract."

Bal David wife seeks support

By Agnes E. Donato

THE ESTRANGED wife of basketball star Bal David yesterday asked a Quezon City court to order the Ginebra point-guard to give her and their 6-year-old son financial support.

Ma. Lourdes David sought P150,000 in monthly support for herself and her son by David.

In her complaint, she said her husband earns an average minimum monthly income of P375,000 as a professional basketball player, while she has no source of income.

She also asked that David return her Toyota Echo car, which she said he had kept after their separation.

She said in her complaint that she was forced to file the civil suit after David refused to heed her previous demands.

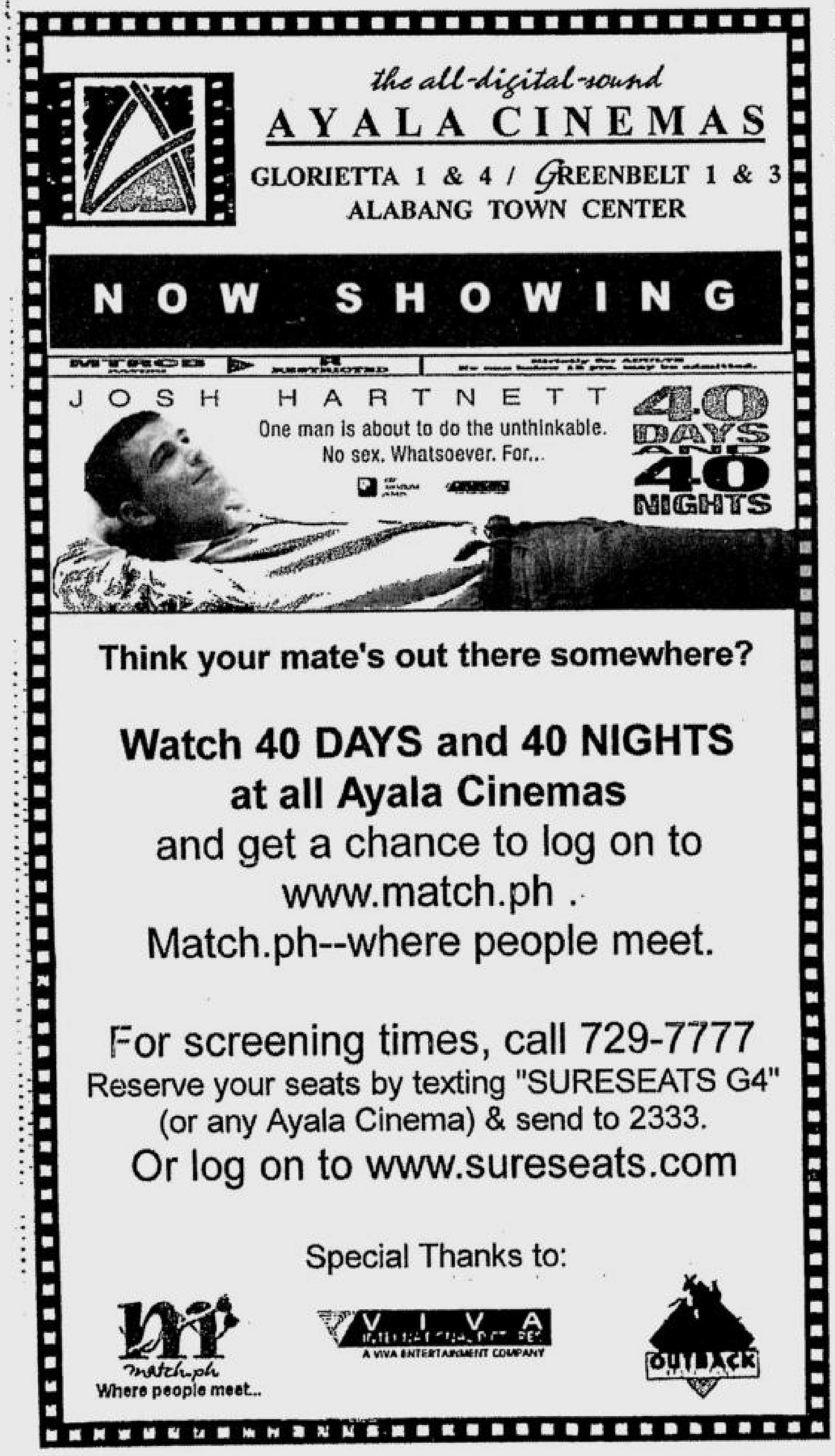
Records showed that David had forced his wife to leave their home in BF Homes, Quezon City after they had a heated argument on the night of May 13.

Mrs. David said their marriage started to turn "bitter" after she found out last September that her husband's alleged mistress had given birth to David's child.

She said that in December 2001, David inflicted injuries on her face, head and arms.

She said he practically cut all financial support for her and their son when he cancelled all her credit cards and closed all their joint bank accounts without informing her.

She also accused him of depriving her of her car by attaching an anti-theft lock device to the steering wheel and hiding the keys.



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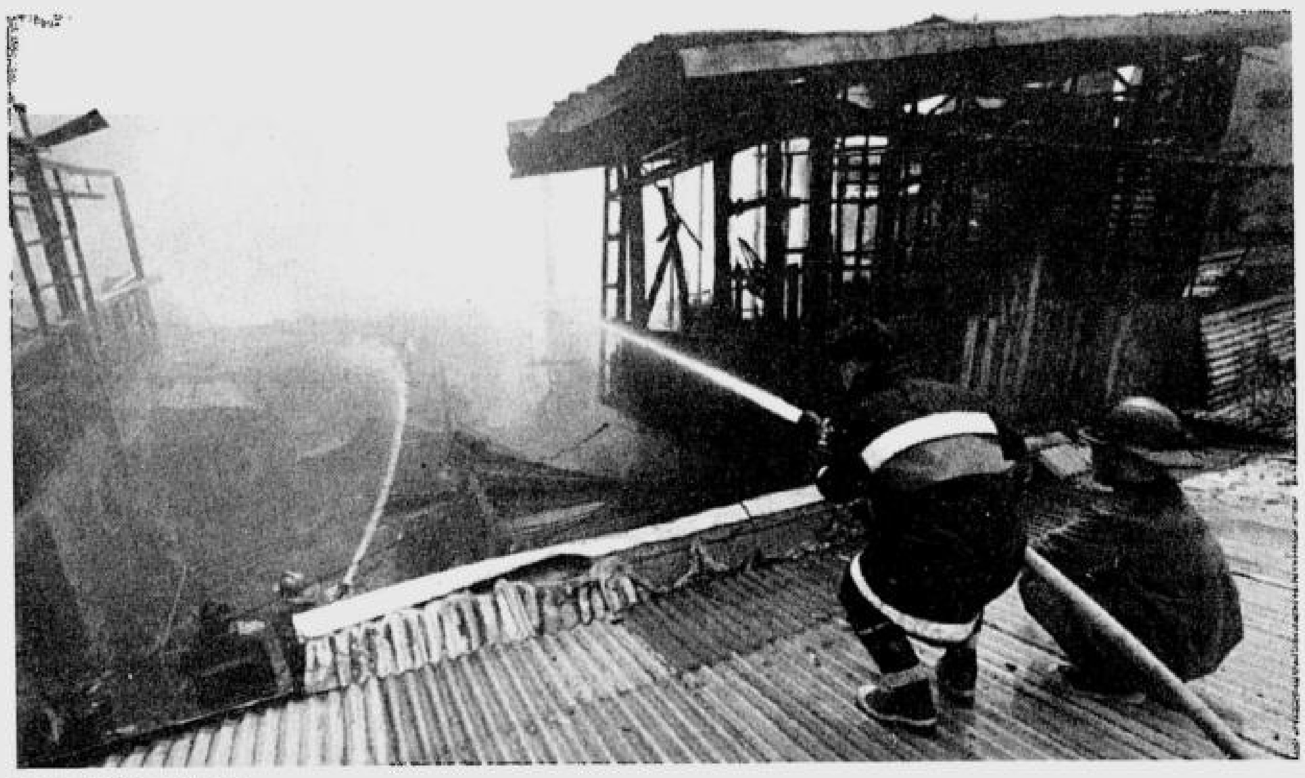

HOT TIN ROOF

Firemen work from the vantage point of a roof as they try to put out a fire in a crowded residential part of Poblacion, Mandaluyong City. Firemen complain that they are usually delayed by narrow streets and tight residential areas, as in this fire that broke out on Monday. DENNIS SABANGAN

Hope Lennox doesn't do a Sacramento on Sunday

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

DO you like Mike Tyson?

I do have several reasons not to like him.

But here's one thing for sure: The daily communicants among our boxing fans don't exactly adore Iron Mike.

In fact, they will all be greatly dismayed if Tyson wins by knockout on Sunday.

Yes, by a knockout, 'coz it's the only way Tyson, also known as Big Beast of Prizefighting, could win over the taller, wiser, more skillful Lennox Lewis.

You see, Lewis has the arsenal, the sound know-how to either out-point or stop Iron Mike.

Which means Lewis should be the odds-on favorite when he enters the ring in Memphis for what could go down as the richest date on Heavyweight Hill.

I'm really finding it hard to call the Lewis-Tyson match.

My seldom-used crystal ball has been beaming hazy signals.

* * *

This definitely was not the case last Saturday when, in an early ride down to Lipa City, I casually told friends that the Lakers would win Game 6 of its NBA conference play-off with Sacramento.

The night before, I also announced to chums and neighbors, including Jing Aldanese and Lito Casal, in an impromptu, sidestreet bash that Senegal would score a shocker in the World Cup opener.

I got disbelieving stares. But when I came home, I had to rush to the wornout encyclopedia to learn a little more about Senegal after it had scored one of the most stirring reversals in world soccer.

* * *

Do I like the Los Angeles Lakers?

In a way yes, but I don't exactly adore them.

Truth is, I had started to admire Sacramento following its steady, gutsy stance earlier in the series.

But once asked why I picked LA on Saturday, I absently replied: "Because there surely will be a Game 7."

No need to turn to the crystal ball for Game 7. I readily picked the Lakers.

Naturally, I was labeled a *balimbing* (turncoat) out in the office when I announced belatedly, after having openly rooted for Sacramento, that I had put my month's brandy (Torres, of course) allowance on the Lakers.

Sacramento, indeed, had the talents. It had the homecourt advantage.

But it won't be talent, or the home edge which would decide Game 7.

Character and deeper team sense, which the Lakers had loads of, would do it.

* * *

There was actually a most crucial foul, called on the fallen Vlade Divac, following what had looked like a tame, harmless on-floor ball dispute with Kobe Bryant.

The penalty, which subsequently gave Bryant two free shots, turned everything around—against Sacramento.

Yes, there were those who swore no foul should have been called in that loose-ball dispute.

Just the same, there were LA fans who insisted that the referees in Game 7 actually tried to do the Lakers in.

Which is which?

In the end, it was gameness and guts which helped the not-so-fabulous Lakers pass one of its biggest tests.

The Associated Press was right: When the moment of truth came, the Kings pushed the ball anywhere—except into the ring.

The Kings, except for Mike Bibby, were both wild and shaky.

There were at least two airballs, nervously committed by two of Sacramento's most trusted gunners, in the dying seconds.

Worse, the Kings performed at the foul line as though the penalty shot had been introduced into the game only the day before.

* * *

Which meant, pardon my saying this, everything boiled down to a question of heart.

Of this vital organ, there's no need to ask which of the two main protagonists in Memphis on Sunday—Lewis and Tyson—owns the Big One.

OK, a basketball team cannot be likened to a boxer.

But listen, if, with his vast arsenal, Lennox Lewis keeps his heart where it should be come Sunday, the daily churchgoers among our boxing fans would be celebrating.

The call here is for Lewis, who had been stopped in his rich-if-somewhat-drab career at least two times, to muster enough courage against Tyson.

If he does and his skills and composure don't desert him, Lewis could stand in line with the triumphant Lakers.

How to do this against a possessed ring beast that had tried to bite off a piece of Mr. Lewis' leg is, of course, not easy to say.

NBI has new 'major' witness . . .

From page A25

pected Kuratong members shot dead along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

The PACC alleged that the 11 men were killed in a shootout.

"He is a very important witness to the case," Wycoco said of the new witness. "If ever the court decides to reopen the case, his testimony would be valuable.

"I can only guess it but perhaps he came forward because his conscience bothered him," the NBI director added.

He said a non-government organization brought the witness to the NBI three months ago. The NGO was neither the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption nor the Council of Philippine Affairs, Wycoco said.

The NBI transferred the witness to "a safer place" after unidentified men began looking for the man, he said.

Also yesterday, the former witness went to the NBI headquarters, together with Mary "Rosebud" Ong, to seek the bureau's protection.

"Ever since he (Capili) mentioned that a certain prominent personality had given him a jeepney, several men have been seen (shadowing) him at the jeepney station (in Manila)," Wycoco told reporters. "He said he has an idea who these persons are. He said they (looked) familiar."

He said Capili was interviewed on May 29, a day after the Supreme Court remanded the Kuratong case back to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. Capili was reported as saying in the interview that Lacson had given him a jeepney allegedly in exchange for his silence.

Capili told the NBI that since then, unidentified men have been shadowing him.

Capili, who issued an affidavit of desistance to withdraw as a witness in the rubout case after the Estrada administration came to power in 1998, said he is again interested in becoming a witness.

"He wants to fight again," Wycoco said of Capili. "He wants to be a witness."

The NBI head explained that despite the affidavit of desistance, Capili could still be a witness since the affidavit was made in exchange of something.

"He admitted that he was given a jeep," Wycoco said.

He said Capili and Ong went first to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) to ask for help but the Isafp did not have enough resources or facilities to secure Capili.

Wycoco said that while the NBI is verifying the alleged threats against Capili, the former reporter and his family would stay in the NBI headquarters.

"I consider it prudent that while we are assessing the situation, he is with us," Wycoco said. "He no longer wants to drive his jeep."

He said Capili had once been under the NBI's protection, when he first presented himself as a witness in the Kuratong case. "His daughter, whom he named Baleleng, was born here (the NBI headquarters)," Wycoco added.

But he clarified that the two witnesses have "no value" unless the Quezon City court decides to reopen the case.

"Senator Lacson is correct," Wycoco said. "Their statements have no value because the case has not been reopened."

Capili could face perjury charges if he again changed his tune and accepted another bribe, he added.

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1 STAR WARS 2
2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
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4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
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5 STAR WARS 2
6 STAR WARS 2

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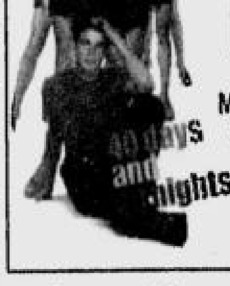

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90 minutes of light fare with a shallow premise

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

I WOULD have really enjoyed this film if I had seen it over a decade ago, when I was still in college. Yet I'd be less than honest if I said I wasn't wearing a guilty smile at least half the time I was watching "40 Days and 40 Nights."

The premise is pathetic. A single guy from libertarian San Francisco, hunky dot-commer Matt Sullivan (Josh Hartnett), decides to abstain from any kind of sexual activity (not even touching, kissing, or self stimulation) for the entire 40 days of Lent. After his long-time sex bomb of a girlfriend (Vinessa Shaw) dumped him, Matt had gone on a binge of one-night stands in a futile effort to exorcise her ghosts. But it's been six months, and he's still—as Ryan, his best friend and roommate (Paulo Costanzo) says—"action-packed with issues" about her.

Out of desperation, or perhaps due to a moment of inspiration, he decides that a temporary vow of celibacy can be the cure-all to end his woes, the cathartic act of purification he truly needs to move on with his life.

It is as stupid as premises go, and at a time when celibacy is a major point of debate in Catholic Christianity, it is also shallow, particularly since there's a sexually tormented candidate for priesthood in this film as well. Still, if you're the type who doesn't mind incredible storylines, who can throw logic and intelligence out the window every now and then, and who doesn't eschew vulgar dialogue and lots of nudity, in short, if you're not a prude, you just might enjoy "40 Days and 40 Nights."

Golden boy

More than anything else, "40 Days" is another star vehicle for Hollywood's current golden boy, Hartnett. I really don't understand the hype or the premium that movie moguls put on Hartnett. So far, he's been pretty much a one-dimensional, good-looking actor who says his lines like Brad Pitt. His acting was a dud in "Pearl Harbor" (to be fair, every one in the film was a dud) and, at best, serviceable in "Black Hawk Down."

But in "40 Days" he somehow manages to be good. His stiffness as an actor works for the deadpan humor he is asked to dish out and the outrageous comedy sketches he is involved in. He's downright funny in certain scenes (watch him as he becomes the first man to fake an orgasm), amusing in others.

And his boyish looks justify the sex appeal of his character, Matt, who can seemingly win the heart of every single white female in his San Francisco stomping grounds.

He is paired with Shannyn Sossamon, who has the attractiveness of a Denise Richards. She's such a sight to behold you just don't care about the acting when you're watching her.

HARTNETT

'Yes!'

Sossamon, who made her film debut in "A Knight's Tale", plays Erica, the girl of Matt's wet dreams, and the single biggest challenge to keeping his "vow." In a scene where she asks Matt in frustration, "Do you really want me?" more than a handful of the guys in the audience reply with a resounding "Yes!"

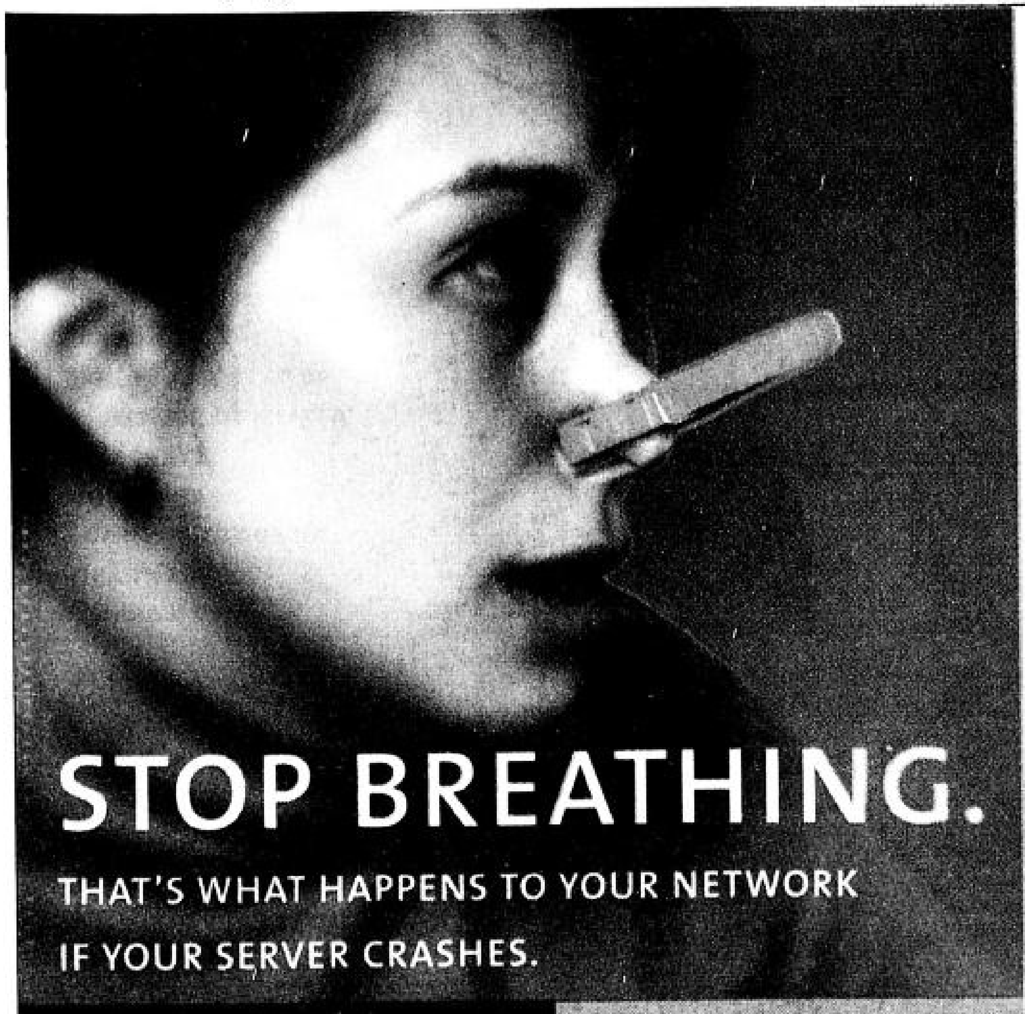
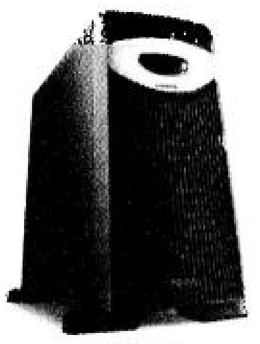
Matt and Erica instantly hit it off after meeting in a laundry shop. Slyly reversing stereotypical gender roles, the film has Erica pushing the issue of sex on Matt. She's the one who wants to take the relationship to the next level, not content with just cute dating and nice conversations.

Meanwhile, Matt has to figure out a way of telling Erica about his vow without her thinking he's some kind of nut or religious fanatic. I had a couple of ideas on the merits of a long courtship but these were quickly debunked by Ryan's advice: "You can pass off two dates without a kiss as old-fashioned; three dates and you're a homo."

Surreal

"40 Days" director Michael Lehmann ("The Truth About Cats and Dogs") paces the film well and gives it a surreal quality that's just right for a romantic comedy that doesn't have any substance and whose sex gags can be dangerous when taken seriously. In one scene, for instance, Matt walks in on his seminarian brother and finds him making out with a nun. Another scene has a Viagra-crazed boss committing borderline sexual harassment. If you're one to take issue with things like these, then it's best to stay away from this film because there's plenty more you'll find offensive.

"40 Days" is strictly featherlight entertainment for the moralless, at least those who choose to be so for about 90 minutes.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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Ex-understudy wins Tony for 'Millie'

NEW YORK—"Thoroughly Modern Millie," the Jazz Age tale of an ambitious flapper, tapped its way to six Tony Awards including best musical, while "The Goat," Edward Albee's comic drama about the unpredictable nature of love, was named best play.

Besides best musical, "Millie" received prizes at Sunday's awards ceremony for lead actress-musical, Sutton Foster; featured actress-musical, Harriet Harris; choreography, Rob Ashford; costumes, Martin Pakledinaz and orchestrations, Doug Besterman and Ralph Burns.

"Urinetown," the satiric little show about a city where everyone must pay to use toilets, received three major prizes—for direction of a musical (John Rando), best book (Greg Kotis) and score of a musical (shared by Kotis and Mark Hollmann).

It's not unheard-of for a musical to win book and score and then lose the top prize, as "Urinetown" did. It happened last in 1998 when "Ragtime" lost to "The Lion King" and 10 years earlier when the original "Into the Woods" won book and score and "The Phantom of the Opera" took best musical.

For "Millie's" Foster, it was a Cinderella-inspired victory.

The 27-year-old actress, originally an understudy, was elevated to the starring role just before the musical, based on the 1967 Julie Andrews film, began its tryout at California's La Jolla Playhouse in 2000.

"To say that this is a dream come true is an understatement," said the overwhelmed Foster.

Albee's win—for "The Goat or Who is Sylvia?"—was especially sweet for the playwright who last won a best-play Tony in 1963 for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

Albee thanked his producers who, he wryly said, had "the faith, the outrageous faith, that Broadway was ready to see a play about love."

Some of the night's most tumultuous applause was reserved for Elaine Stritch, finally winning the Tony that has eluded her since 1956, when she received the first of her four previous nominations.

The 77-year-old performer got the special theatrical event prize for her one-woman show, "Elaine Stritch at Liberty."

"Don't take up my time," the emotional Stritch began as the audience cheered.

"Into the Woods" upended "Oklahoma!" for the musical-revival prize and also garnered the lighting prize (Brian MacDevitt).

Katie Finneran, the nearsighted blond bombshell in "Noises Off," won in the featured actress-play category, while Shuler Hensley was chosen as featured actor in a musical for his role as the brooding, despondent Jud Fry in "Oklahoma!"

Unlike last season, when "The Producers" took a record 12 of 22 competitive awards, this year's prizes were shared among 11 shows.

"This season was more evenly divided," says Jed Bernstein, head of the League of American Theaters and Producers.

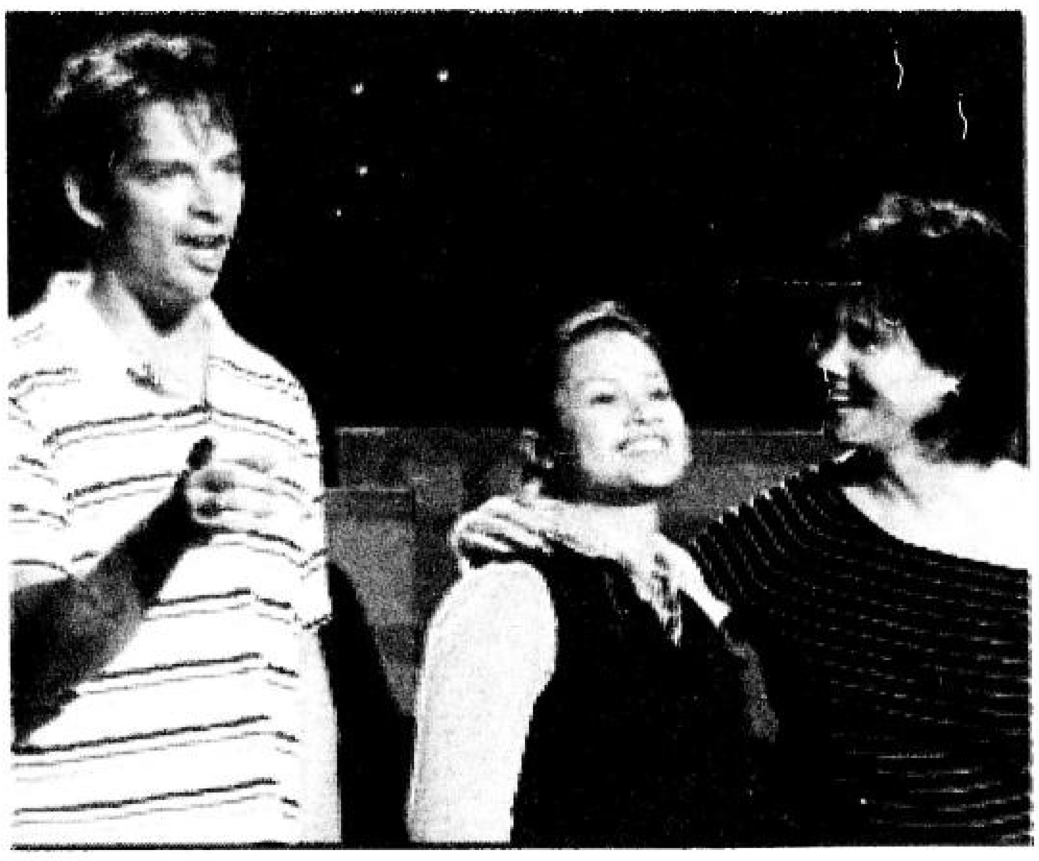
Both grosses and attendance were down slightly from the previous season's banner year, leaving industry leaders more relieved than dismayed.

"Broadway has rebounded," Bernstein said, referring to the disastrous events of Sept. 11 and the aftereffects of a lingering economic downturn.

Business was shaky throughout the fall but gradually returned, even if a lot of the tourists didn't, thanks to aggressive marketing campaigns, more theatergoers from the suburban New York area, discount ticket sales and a milder than normal winter.

Yet a sense of nervousness prevails. Advance ticket sales have faltered with audiences preferring to buy at the last minute or only a week or two in advance.

The Tonys are a joint presentation of the league and the American Theater Wing, which founded the awards in 1947. *AP*

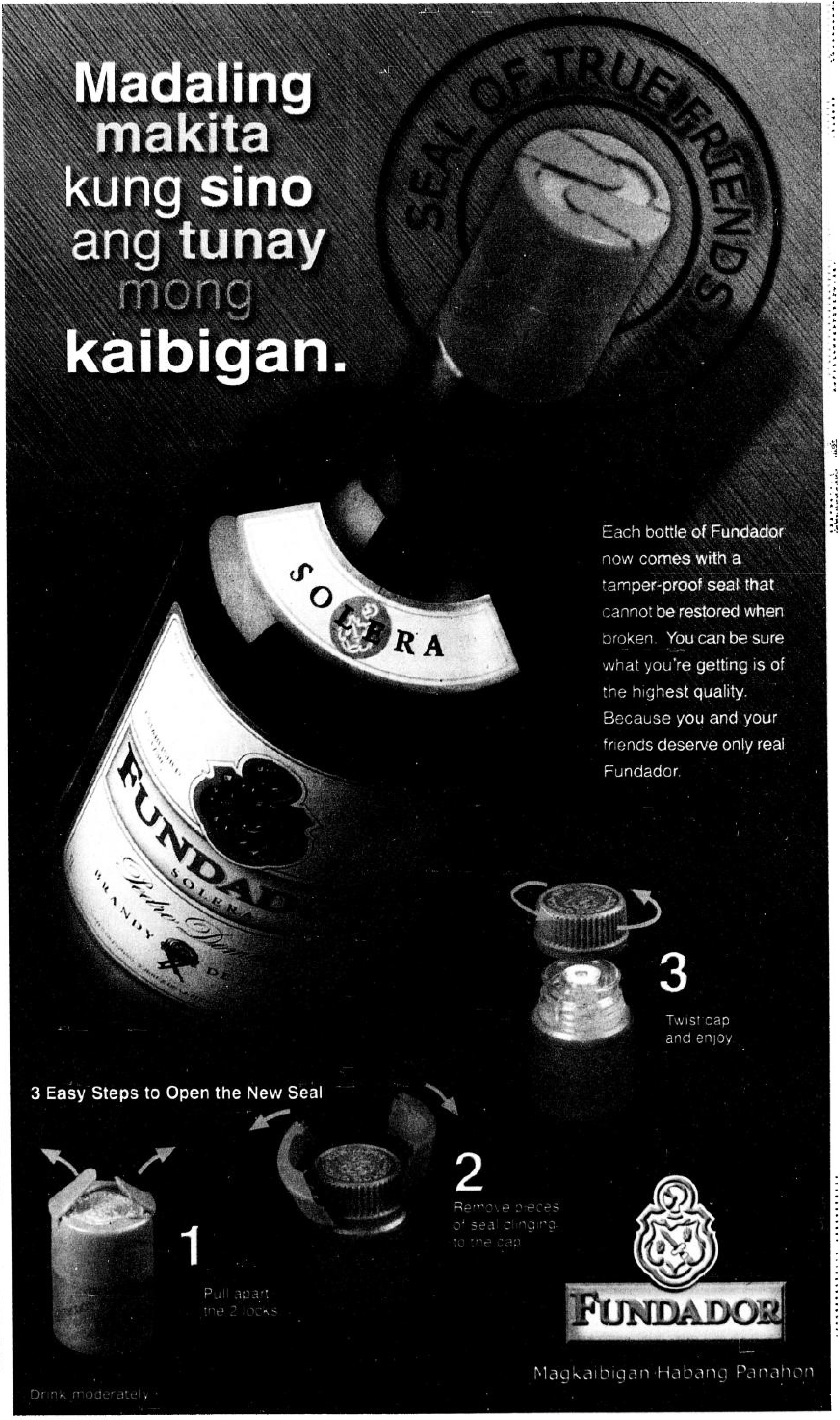


LEA PERFORMS AT TONY AWARDS
Lea Salonga, who will star in the forthcoming Broadway production of the newly revived Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "Flower Drum Song," performed in a tribute to Richard Rodgers during the Tony Awards in New York. Lea was also a presenter in the ceremony. Photo was taken during rehearsals for the awards night, with Harry Connick Jr. and Michele Lee.

AP

SUTTON Foster accepts award for best performance by a leading actress in a musical for "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

ACTRESSES Whoopi Goldberg (left) and Alicia Silverstone pose at the Radio City Music Hall lobby.



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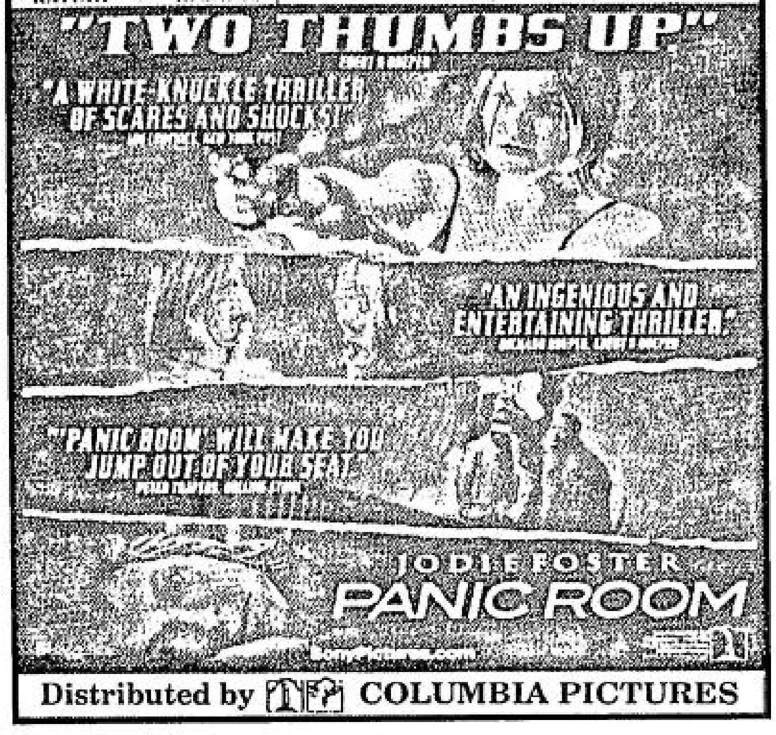
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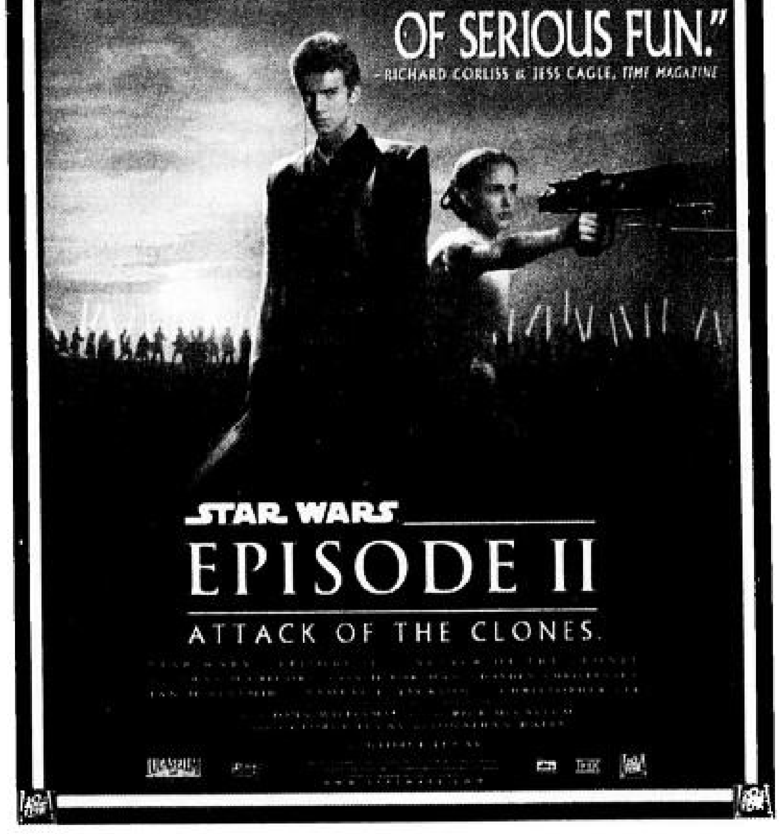

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CASS & CARY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RESIDENT EVIL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRAGONFLY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIBINGKA/LOVE ME TENDER
ODEON	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ODEON-2	JIHAD WARRIORS
ROBEN	SELDA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	WE WERE SOLDIER / E.T.
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
REMAR	SELDA
REMAR-2	PAGSALUHAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	CASS & CARY
C	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
CINEMA-3	SELDA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDER-MAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-14	MURDER BY NUMBER
CINEMA-15	DRAGONFLY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-5	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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Violett films production

STARLIGHT FILMS RELEASE

LG

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

FIRST-TIME producer Violet Sevilla (left, seated) with her long-time idol Gloria Romero and the cast of "Cass and Cary."

Undaunted couple invests ₱11 million in new movie

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

A NEW production outfit is undaunted by the current slump in the local movie industry. The firm is staking millions on a new movie.

Businesswoman **Violeta Sevilla** and her lawyer-husband **Romy** recently launched Violett Films, and its initial offering is the comedy "Cass and Cary (Who Wants to be a Billionaire)."

Madam Violet, Ms Sevilla is fondly called, is an avowed movie fan and a big admirer of **Gloria Romero**. So for her outfit's first production, Madam Violet made sure she signed up the veteran actress. She even allowed her house to be used as Gloria's mansion in the movie. Gloria also wore some of Madam Violet's glittering jewelry so she could be more in character as a rich matron.

"Cass and Cary" stars comedians **Bayani Agbayani** and **Vhong Navarro**, with **Matet de Leon**, **Carmina Villaroel** and **Gladys Reyes**.

"We don't think of the negative vibes," says Madam Violet. "In an industry like this, the best way is to think positively. We may be new in the business but we want to give it our best shot as producers."

Her husband believes that it is worth investing in the movie industry since it gives them an opportunity to learn the trade and help the people.

Madam Violet spent P11 million to produce the movie, directed by **Jose Carreon,** whose filmography is filled with action blockbusters. Surprisingly, she was able to convince Carreon to direct a comedy.

"He's my cousin," Madam Violet explains.

The first-time producers are confident they have a hit.

Lea back from LA

AFTER her performance at the Tony Awards last Sunday in New York (Monday morning in Manila), **Lea Salonga** is arriving today from Los Angeles to do a repeat of her successful Broadway concert at the PICC on June 19.

Lea will plane in at 6 a.m. today via Philippine Airlines from Los Angeles. She will be accompanied by her concert producer, **Ferdie Agustin** of Bayo, the garment line she is endorsing.

Lea will be in town only briefly. She is also set to launch her latest album, the live recording of her Broadway concert early this year (from BMG Pilipinas).

After the show, she will return to New York to start rehearsals for the Broadway version of "Flower Drum Song," which opens in October.

Last year, Lea starred in the successful LA run of "Flower Drum Song," which was revised by **David Henry Hwang**, himself a Tony Award winner and writer of "M. Butterfly" and "Aida."

At the Tony Awards, held at the Radio City Music Hall, Lea performed in a tribute to **Richard Rodgers**, one of the highlights of the show. She shared the stage with other performers like **Marvin Hamlisch**, **Harry Connick Jr.**, **Donna Murphy** and **John Raitt**. The ceremony was hosted by **Bernadette Peters** and **Gregory Hines**.

This year's Tony awards show was attended by the likes of **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Hugh Jackman**, **Mary Tyler Moore**, **Liam Neeson** and **Natasha Richardson**.

Encouraging results

THE P8.5 million opening day take of the **Bong Revilla Jr.-Assunta de Rossi** starrer, "Kilabot at Kembot," has been very encouraging for other action stars and film producers.

We heard action king **Fernando Poe Jr.** is thinking about producing again with his FPJ Productiongs. And so is **Ben Yalung**, whose M-7 Productions stopped when the slump hit the industry.

The good box office results of "Kilabot at Kembot" also encouraged Bong to do more projects through Seven Star Films, the outfit he owns with his six brothers and sisters.

The second venture of Seven Star is a movie with **Joyce Jimenez** and **Albert Martinez**, "Ang Galing Galing Mo Babe," to be directed by **Ed Palmos**.

Seven Star movies will be released by Imus Productions, the outfit owned by Bong's dad, Sen. Ramon Revilla. Imus Productions stopped producing movies in 1989 after 16 years of operations.

Incentives for better filmfest entries

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE 2002 Metro Manila Film Festival promises to be one of the biggest editions of the yearly competition to date, thanks to the financial incentives promised by the government.

To encourage as many producers as possible to participate in the festival, P1,000,000 will be given to each of the 10 films produced from the best scripts selected.

In addition, the producers of the seven final entries will each be awarded P3,000,000 to be funded from the presidential subsidy of P50,000,000, aimed at encouraging a high standard of content and production values for the official entries.

To interest the most talented writers to come up with their best scripts for the festival, a screenwriting competition is being held, with P100,000 to be given to the 10 chosen scripts, in addition to the fees they will get from producers when their scripts are filmed.

The 10 best scripts will be announced July 1.

Sounds promising. But some doubts have been raised as to the actualized impact of these incentives, if the usual suspects manage to use them for their own subjective ends.

For example, these incentives appear to encourage independent filmmakers to try to get into the festival by coming up with superior movies that will merit the P1M and P3M incentives.

This would go a long way in opening up the industry to fresh winds of change, and new concepts and styles—the new blood it needs to invigorate itself and get out of the rut it's in.

But if, as has sometimes happened elsewhere in the past, entrenched power brokers manage to gain control of the selection process, the new players could find themselves going to the usual well-connected fat cats.

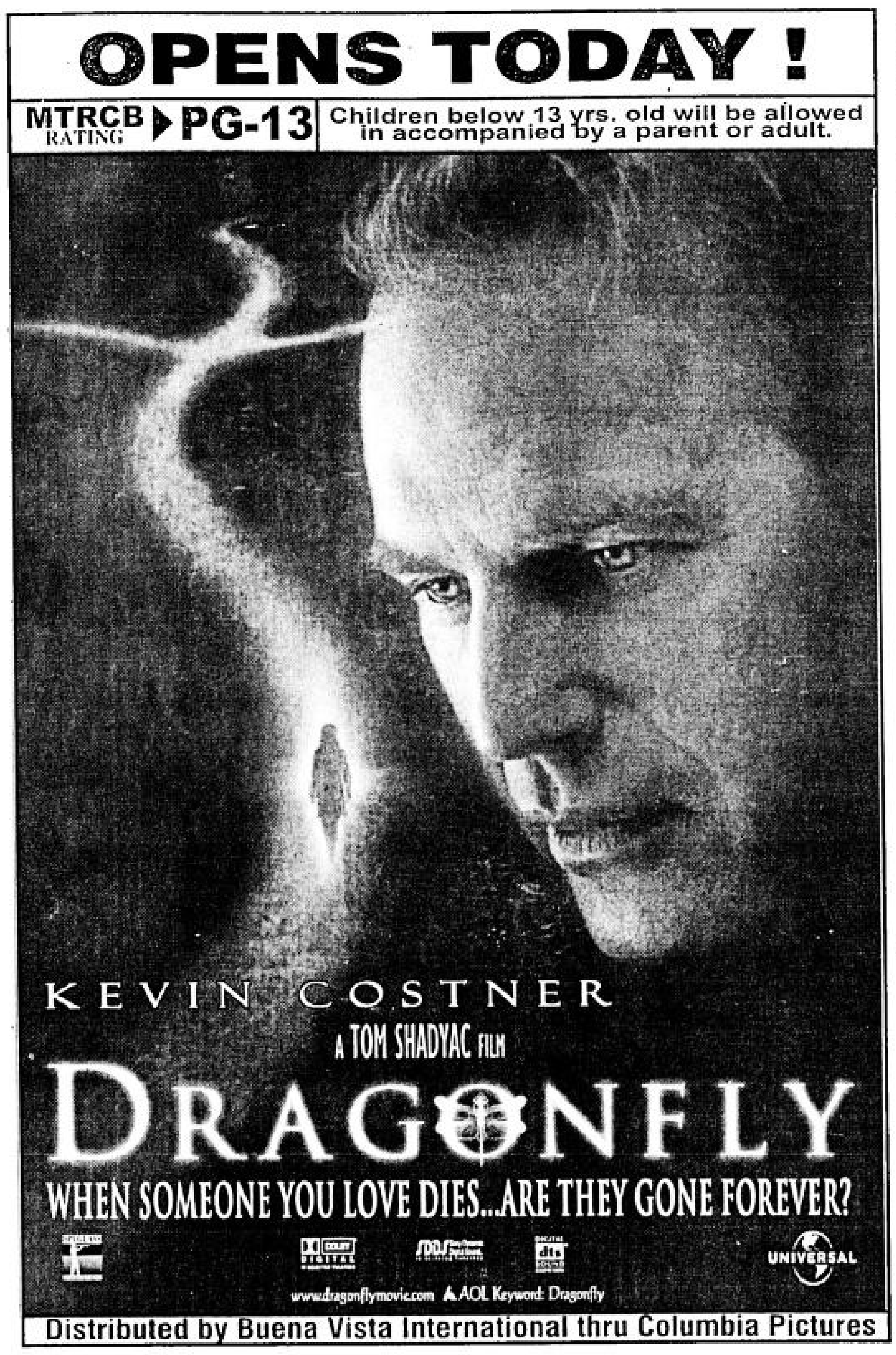
Let's hope that the festival institutes a system of checks and balances, and taps film experts of proven probity to take charge of the selection process, to make sure that this doesn't happen.

If the planned incentives' worthy goals are objectively realized, this year's Metro filmfest cold be one of the best ever, and the industry and its audience would benefit enormously from the badly-needed shot in the arm that the system of incentives and rewards would be providing. We trust that this will indeed come to pass.

Over 2,000 entries

MORE than 2,000 songs have been submitted to the Himig Handog Love Songs competition. The youngest composer is only 13 years old, while the oldest is 60. Entries have been received from as far away as Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Australia and the United States.

The 10 finalists will be announced by ABS-CBN on June 22. The finals night is Nov. 10.



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KEVIN COSTNER

A TOM SHADYAC FILM

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www.dragonflymovie.com AOL Keyword: Dragonfly

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Le Pacte des Loups
Les Destinées Sentimentales
Trois-Huit
La Fausse Suivante
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P 13

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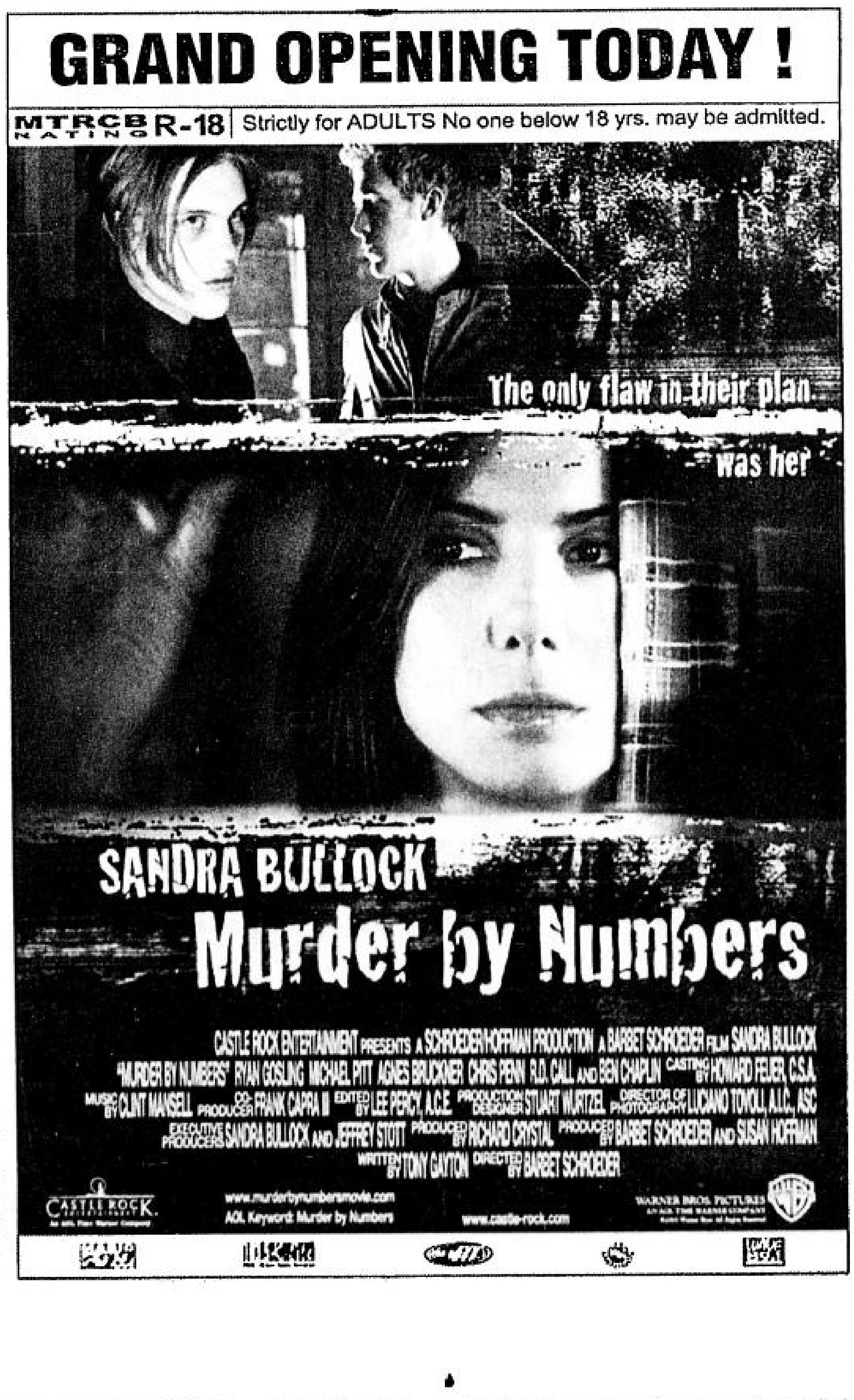

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The only flaw in their plan... was her

SANDRA BULLOCK

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CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT

www.murderbynumbersmovie.com AOL Keyword: Murder by Numbers

www.castle-rock.com

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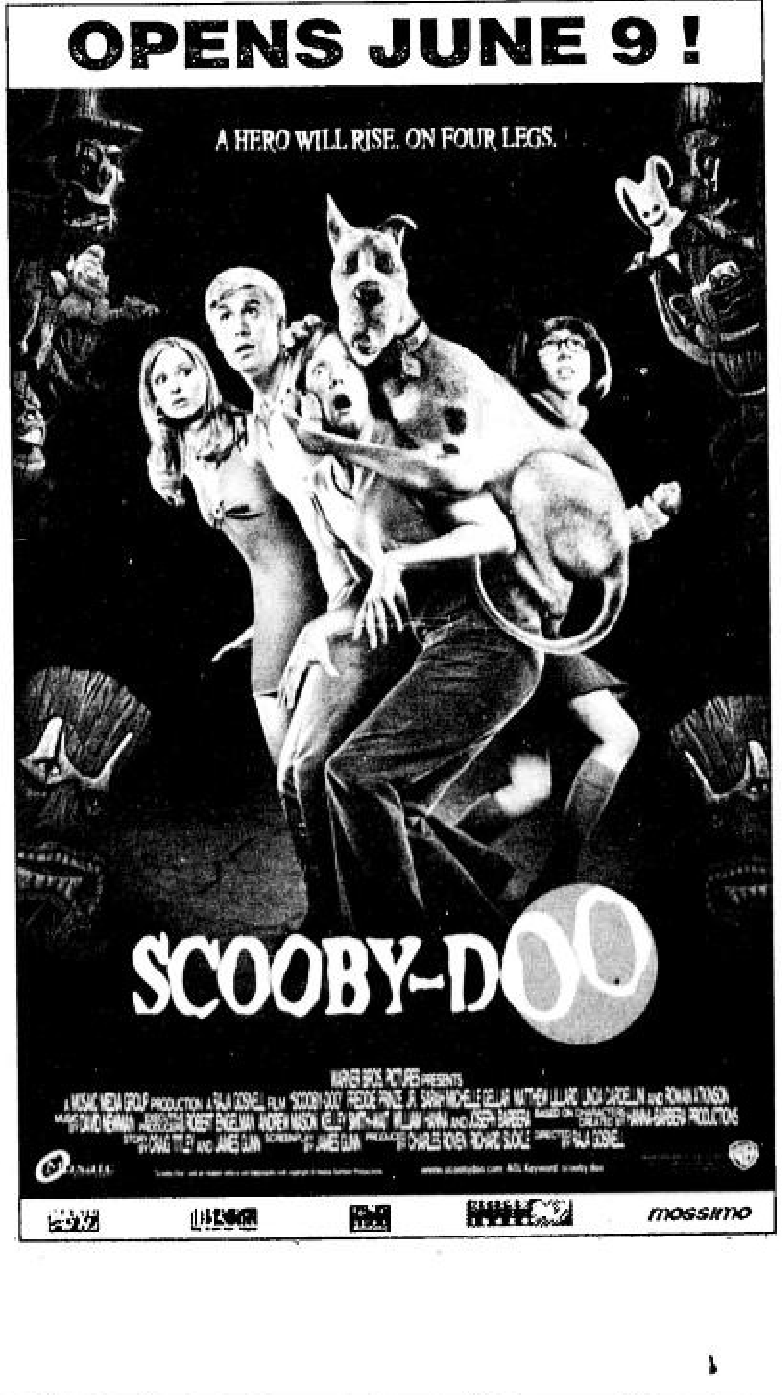

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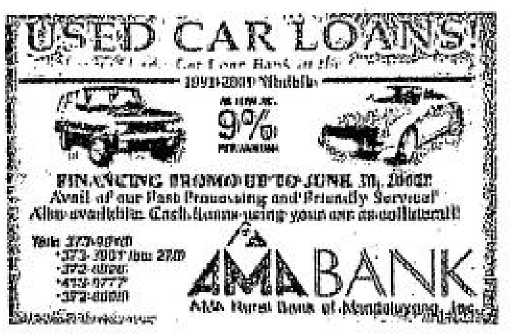
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AMA Rural Bank of Mandaluyong, Inc.

Gokongwei partner in PLDT bid named

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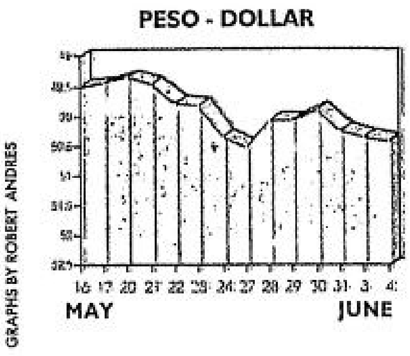


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.43 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 4, 2002

¥ 123.41 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 4, 2002

GOLD: $329.25/329.75

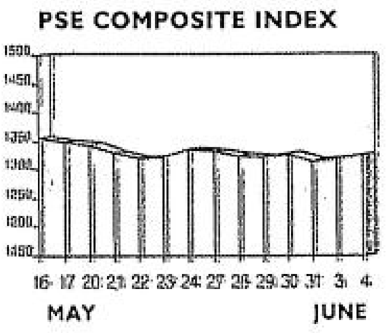
per ounce Hong Kong, June 4, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

SHARES closed higher yesterday after Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. announced that a company owned by business tycoon John Gokongwei was believed to be negotiating to buy a stake, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 6.03 points, or 0.5 percent, at 1,327.29 points.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

PLDT was the session's most active, rising P10, or 2.3 percent, to P455 after the nation's largest telecommunications company announced late Monday that JG Summit, Gokongwei's investment holding firm, was believed to be in talks to buy a 24.4-percent stake from First Pacific, another investment holding company.

JG Summit said it didn't have sufficient information to confirm PLDT's claim, but warned the market against "unverified and inaccurate information that may unnecessarily fuel speculation."

Total volume of shares traded reached 368.6 million shares valued at P341.7 million from Monday's 429.9 million shares valued at P277.9 million.

AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

- The Gokongwei gambit / B3
- Gov't urged to keep vehicle tariff / B5
- PNB to sell P4B in acquired assets / B6

Opposition to Salim group's selloff mounts

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elena R. Torrijos

TAIPAN John Gokongwei is bringing in a foreign partner in his bid to acquire the telecommunication and property interests of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd.

INQUIRER sources said the Gokongwei group was also mobilizing foreign funds to boost its bid to acquire the Philippine telecommunication and property interests of First Pacific even as opposition to a deal with the Salim group was snowballing in Manila.

The sources said the Gokongwei group was bringing in United Industrial Co. Ltd. of Singapore as a partner in its bid to acquire 24.4 percent of local telecommunication giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and 50 percent of Bonifacio Land Co.

The Gokongwei group itself owns less than 25 percent of UIC, which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, and is a conglomerate with core business in property investment and development. Other business interests include trading and services such as information technology, shipping, travel agency and manufacturing of consumer products, printing and packaging.

The sources said the Gokongwei group, with an estimated war chest of at least $800 million (excluding unlisted offshore assets), had enough resources to launch the twin takeover but noted that it was more prudent to bring partners now that a bidding war has emerged.

The Gokongweis have remained mum about the takeover bid even as PLDT officially identified for the first time on Monday that the group was the "independent investor" eyeing the stake.

Other sources earlier said that neither flagship holding unit JG Summit Holdings Corp. nor telecom unit Digital Telecommunications would be the vehicle to be used for the takeover bid. Other sources said the vehicle could be some unlisted offshore unit if not UIC itself.

However, UIC is expected to come in especially in the Fort Bonifacio component of the deal, since property development was its expertise, the sources said.

But opposition mounted yesterday to the plan of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate to sell its controlling stakes in its Philippine telecommunication and property subsidiaries.

The board of Metro Pacific passed a resolution which company officials said signaled opposition to any planned sale.

"The board of Metro Pacific today reiterated full support of Metro Pacific management and management's ongoing debt reduction efforts and at the same time, confirms its full intention to protect the interest of all MPC stakeholders," company spokesperson David Nugent said after a board meeting.

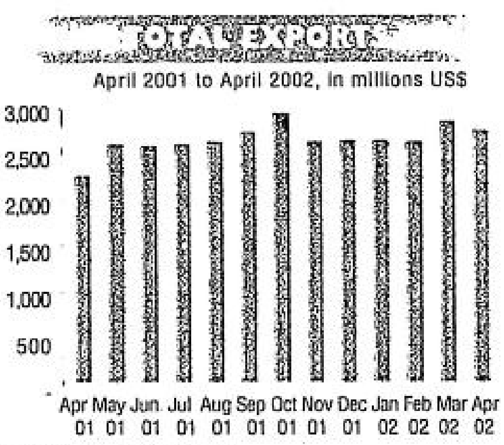
Company sources said the sale of First Pacific's 80.6-percent

GOKONGWEI/ B2

22.4% jump in exports in April highest since '99

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE export earnings surged by 22.4 percent in April from a year ago, ending a 14-month slowdown and posting the strongest performance in nearly three years, as the electronics sector started to benefit from the global economic rebound.



The National Statistics Office reported yesterday that export receipts hit $2.75 billion in April from $2.25 billion a year ago, posting the highest year-on-year expansion since October 1999 when export receipts rose by 36.1 percent.

The bottoming out of the export decline in April reflected the strong pick-up in the country's import bill, which grew at an 18-month high in March. The influx of electronic inputs is seen as a positive indicator as the sector accounts for the lion's share of the country's total export earnings.

"Exports are improving because of the rebound in the economy of the United States. This was expected because imports have recovered as well," Eagle Equities president

22.4%/ B7

Benpres seeks restructuring of $597-M debts

BENPRES Holdings Corp. is seeking to reschedule all of its $596.9 million (P31 billion) in debts, sell holdings in non-core subsidiaries and pursue further belt-tightening to restore its financial health.

The Lopez family's holding firm will put on the auction block all or part of its shareholdings in water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc., property developer Rockwell Land Corp., infrastructure arm First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. and consolidated cable provider Beyond Cable Inc., officials announced during the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday.

"A balance sheet management plan was formulated which proposed that over the medium- to long-term, Benpres should scale down its borrowings, strategically downsize its portfolio of investments and emerge from

BENPRES/ B2

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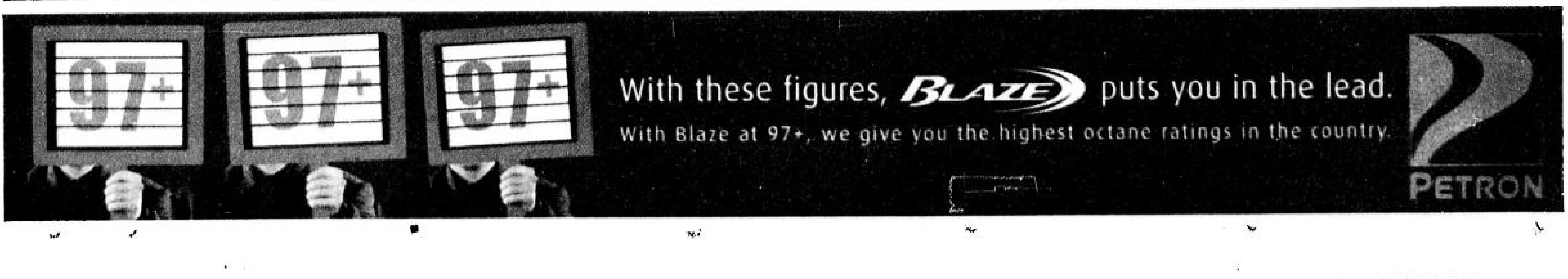

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Equitable to raise tier-2 capital

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank is preparing to increase its capital by about P5 billion this year through the so-called tier-two scheme, a long-term borrowing that can be converted into equity upon maturity.

Equitable president Rene Buenaventura said in an interview that the bank would issue as much as P5 billion worth of tier-two notes to potential investors. The convertible bonds could be denominated in a combination of pesos and dollars.

"We will pursue tier-two capital this year for a maximum of P5 billion," he said.

Among the big banks, Equitable PCI ranks fourth largest in terms of assets. It was identified to be among those in need of additional capital to help rebuild its finances after billions of deposits left the bank at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal from late 2000 to early 2001.

One of the prospective investors considered by Equitable PCI is the International Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank.

Javed Hamid, IFC regional director for East Asia and the Pacific, said they had been holding talks with Equitable PCI for a possible tier-two investment.

He could not say, however, how much IFC would commit to put into the bank. The IFC had earlier earmarked about $20 million to buy tier-two notes of Banco de Oro.

So far, only the Metrobank Group and Banco de Oro had tapped the market for tier-two funds. Metrobank, the country's largest, had issued $100 million worth of notes late last year to a venture capital in Singapore. It said the funds were used to buy dollar-denominated government securities.

Equitable PCI has sought the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the issuance of $100 million and P5 billion worth of tier-two capital. The central bank believed that tapping the market for convertible borrowings could be an easier way to raise capital than a straight equity.

The tier-two capital is believed to be more expensive for banks but higher yielding for investors because they get a fixed yield.

Gokongwei . . .

From page B1

stake in Metro Pacific could hurt the interests of employees, creditors and suppliers—and these were the stakeholders referred to in the resolution.

First Pacific, controlled by Indonesia's Salim family, has said it is in talks to sell its holdings in PLDT and Metro Pacific.

On Monday, PLDT's board passed a resolution saying it would defer approval of any transaction which sold First Pacific's 24.4-percent stake in the telephone company to JG Summit.

"The PLDT board of directors, in exercise of its fiduciary duties, shall hold in abeyance and defer any action that may be required . . . in connection with the implementation of the transaction until the PLDT board has fully examined and analyzed all the implications of the transaction on PLDT, particularly on its financial stability, going forward," the statement said.

Other sources said Manuel Pangilinan, First Pacific's chair and also the CEO of both PLDT and Metro Pacific, could be trying for a management buyout of First Pacific's holdings.

They said Pangilinan has the support of PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco and is seeking help from Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) of Japan, which has a 15-percent stake in PLDT through its subsidiary.

NTT has declined comment on the issue.

Meantime, the SM Group of retail magnate Henry Sy has confirmed that it was holding discussions to acquire the Fort Bonifacio property interest of Metro Pacific.

SM Prime Holdings executive vice president Teresita Sy told reporters Monday evening that the discussions were only for the property component. She said she did not know what direction the group would take if MPC's parent, Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., would bundle its interest in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. with the Bonifacio holdings.

"We have been in discussion in that area (for property) but nothing on PLDT," Sy said. "If it (PLDT) goes with it (property), I really don't know."

Social Security System president Corazon de la Paz also said that the pension fund would like to sell its interest in PLDT if there were a tender offer.

"How I wish they (Gokongweis) will make a tender offer," De la Paz said.

However, she said that realistically, the Gokongweis would likely not proceed with the deal if they thought a tender offer would be required.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has exempted until September this year all transactions for less than a 35-percent stake in a listed company or accumulates 30 percent in a single year from making a tender offer, wherein the buyer must make an offer to buy the shares of all other existing shareholders at the same price of the original purchase.

De la Paz, who sits as a director of PLDT, pointed out that the telecommunications giant was already starting to address its liability issues.

PLDT recently raised $350 million from the bond market, allowing it to also tap low-interest rates from multilateral agencies like the Kfw of Germany. SSS has a stake equivalent to one board seat in PLDT.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, meanwhile, said in a statement he was not placing his support behind Pangilinan and that he was not involved in any way with transactions involving the sale of First Pacific's stake in PLDT.

"I have nothing to do with the issue. As I have always said, I have not entered and do not intend to enter into any business transaction in the government or in the private sector while my wife is the President. Thus, I will never get involved or meddle in PLDT matters," he said.

Benpres . . .

From page B1

the plan with a business risk profile that we can sustain and manage for profit," Benpres chair and chief executive officer Oscar Lopez told stockholders.

Lopez specifically cited that for MWSI, Benpres has hired CLSA Ltd., the investment banking arm of French banking giant Credit Lyonnais, to scout for a strategic financial investor as he admitted that the Lopez group was not in a position to infuse additional capital.

A counterpart equity worth $45 million is required by MWSI's creditors in order to provide a much needed $350-million credit facility. As such, the Lopez group is willing to dilute its 59-percent stake in the water concessionaire to accommodate a new investor.

The plan is to aggressively downsize Benpres' assets and focus only on flagship units ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and First Philippine Holdings Corp. where it owns 57 percent and 47 percent, respectively. The other subsidiaries outside these two are now considered as non-core assets.

"Over the short term, the plan would require that Benpres would inevitably be subjected to an element of financial belt-tightening, cost-cutting and minimal investment," Lopez explained.

The debt rescheduling is needed to allow Benpres to execute an orderly asset divestment program, he stressed, alongside an organizational belt-tightening which likewise requires cutback on new investments.

"In the end, Benpres will emerge a leaner, less leveraged and more focused entity," Lopez noted.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, June 04, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.5	1,926,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	57	57.5	264,900
China Banking Corp.	625	630	625	630	1,310
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	39.5	39.5	158,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39.5	38.5	39	318,500
Philippine National Bank	33	33.5	33	33	64,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	12	12	4,700
Security Bank Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.5	24.25	24.5	130,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	57,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	201	223	201	223	600
Manulife Financial Corp.	1465	1470	1465	1470	870
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1150	1140	1150	4,440
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28	28	28	28	13,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.77	0.82	0.77	0.8	25,710,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	680	660	680	12,220
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.04	3,000,000
Piltel	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.46	3,090,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	120,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	450	467.5	450	455	112,650
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	27,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	23	22.5	22.75	32,900
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32.5	31	32.5	905,900
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.76	4,992,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.92	180,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	554,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	450,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	34	33.5	34	331,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	550,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	48	106,000
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	55.5	54	54.5	413,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	1,299,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.38	2.32	2.36	1,575,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	65,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	7	10	7	10	113,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	4,380,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	11,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	350,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	158,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	224,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.74	1.74	1,245,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	900,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.4	0.51	120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.32	12,400,000
Music Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	2,260,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.2	0.2	1,230,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28	28	28	28	68,500
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	815	850	815	850	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	6,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7	2,759,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3.5	3	3.5	357,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	2,250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	840,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	1,162,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.76	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	1,550,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	320,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	31,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	4,154,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2	2	1.8	2	88,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	0.9	1.02	0.9	1.02	30,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	7,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.235	1,520,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	6,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,410,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.004	0.0036	0.0038	200,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	17,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	200,000

CURRENCIES

June 04, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.062361	1.000000	50.4100
Japan	Yen	0.008596	0.008091	0.4079
United Kingdom	Pound	1.555402	1.464100	73.8053
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136205	0.128210	6.4631
Switzerland	Franc	0.679302	0.639427	32.2335
Canada	Dollar	0.696036	0.655179	33.0276
Singapore	Dollar	0.594826	0.559910	28.2251
Australia	Dollar	0.607064	0.571429	28.8057
Bahrain	Dinar	2.818082	2.652661	133.7206
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.283289	0.266660	13.4423
Brunei	Dollar	0.592306	0.557538	28.1055
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000124	0.000117	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.025074	0.023602	1.1898
UAE	Dirham	0.289274	0.272294	13.7263
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000820	0.0413
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.941300	47.4509
Argentina	Peso	0.297580	0.280112	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.416776	0.392311	19.7764
Denmark	Kroner	0.134382	0.126494	6.3766
India	Rupee	0.021694	0.020421	1.0294
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.279569	0.263158	13.2658
Mexico	New Peso	0.110032	0.103573	5.2211
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515984	0.485696	24.4839
Norway	Kroner	0.134187	0.126310	6.3673
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017721	0.016681	0.8409
South Africa	Rand	0.108294	0.101937	5.1386
Sweden	Kroner	0.109689	0.103250	5.2048
Syria	Pound	0.024310	0.022883	1.1535
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031301	0.029464	1.4853
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000947	0.000917	0.0462

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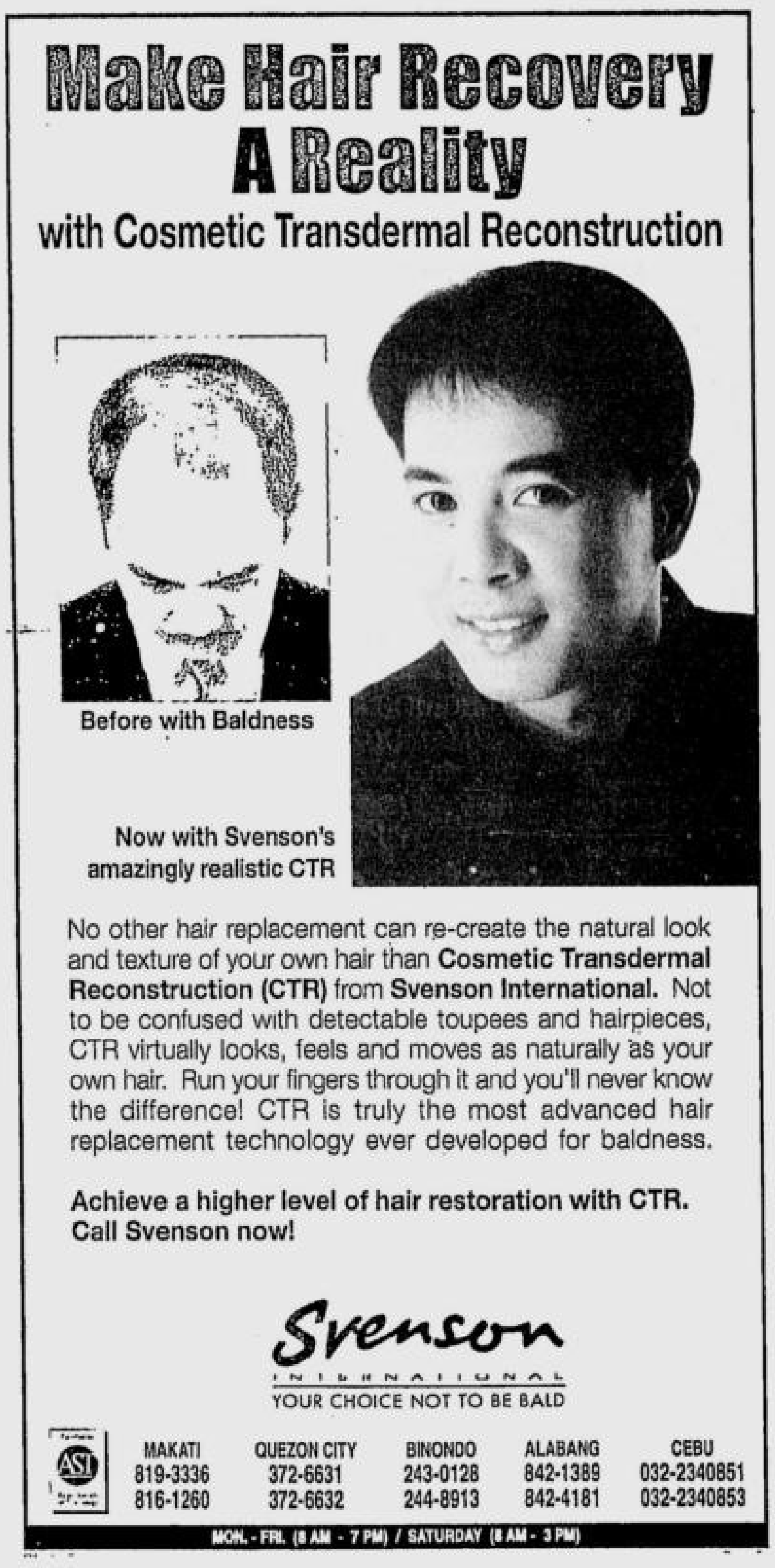
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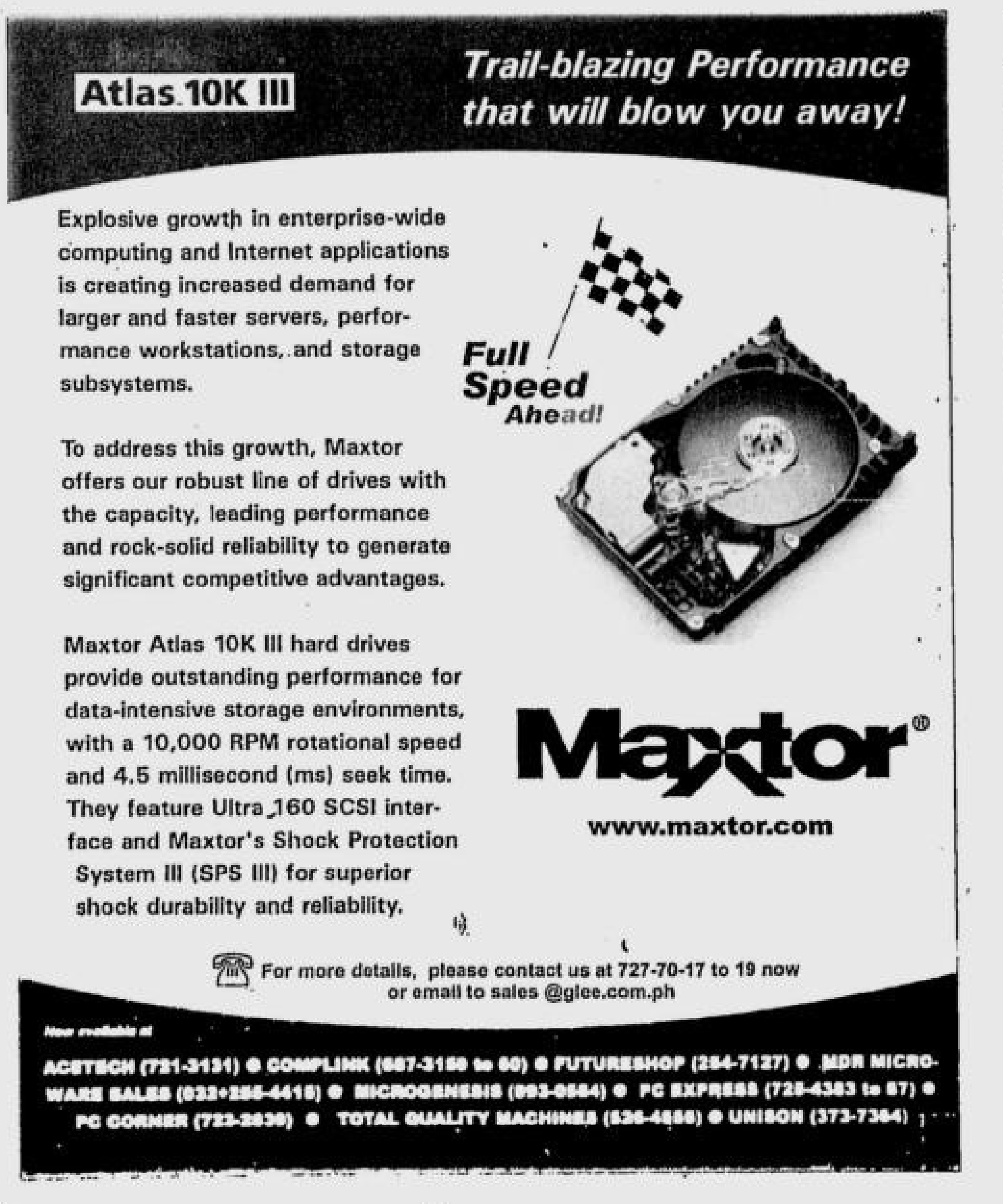
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The Gokongwei gambit

IF YOU believe the pro-Gokongwei grapevine, it is a matter of when, not if, the taipan will take over PLDT and Fort Bonifacio.

Apparently, the structure of the planned Gokongwei takeover involves the transfer of First Pacific holding companies in the Philippines and the assignment of the collateral PLDT voting rights to Mr. John.

As structured, the planned takeover will not disturb the preemptive rights of, say, the Cojuangcos, who like First Pacific holds direct and indirect shareholdings in PLDT.

As intimated by both the PLDT and Gokongwei camps, the acquiring offshore company will be a joint venture between the Salims, the Indonesian principals of First Pacific, and Mr. John.

To overcome the Gokongwei bid, the incipient Cojuangco consortium will also have to come up with a superior bid not only for PLDT but for Fort Bonifacio as well. This is because of the all-or-nothing proposal submitted by Mr. John, a bid that was formally accepted by the First Pacific board in Hong Kong on Monday.

Contrary to what was speculated, not only was Manuel V. Pangilinan retained but he also was reelected executive chair of First Pacific Co. in Monday's annual stockholders' meet and the subsequent board meeting.

This after MVP gave the First Pacific board his assurance, despite MVP's body language that he has gone to bed with the natives, that he "intends to cooperate" with his foreign principals over their planned divestment from the Philippines.

Depending on which grapevine, the First Pacific board voted either 7-2 or 9-0 in favor of the Philippine divestment, with MVP electing not to or was told not to cast the 10th ballot.

It is not widely known but MVP and his fellow officers control a little over 10 percent of the publicly listed First Pacific. Outside of the Indonesian bloc (the Salims plus two other Indon families) which controls anywhere between 40 percent to a little over 50 percent, the balance is held by the public and other venture funds like Capital Research and Olympic Capital.

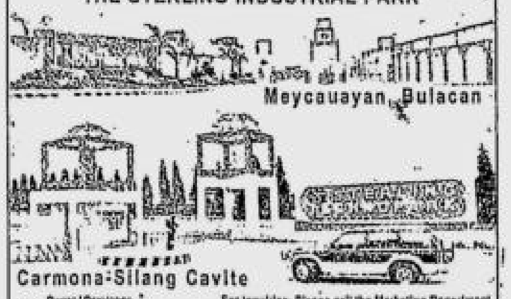
MVP arrived the other night, taking the last Cathay Pacific flight out of Hong Kong, and promptly met with the Metro Pacific board yesterday. Like PLDT last week, Metro Pacific issued a statement saying in effect that it was treating the Salim-Gokongwei deal as a hostile takeover.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

After news of the deal leaked out last week, the tight-lipped Gokongwei camp has all the

COCKTALES/ B5



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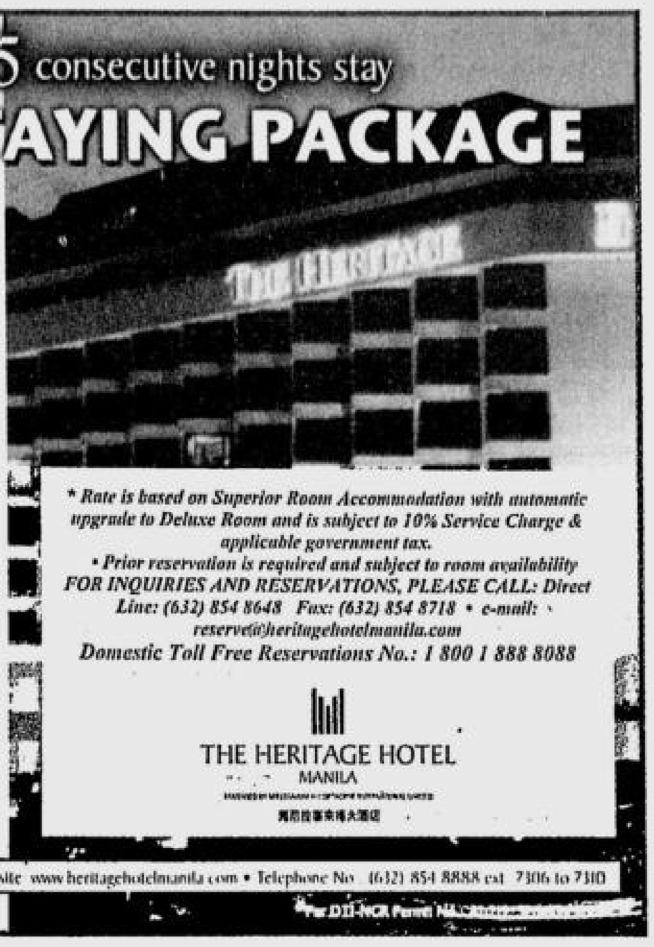

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	550,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	225,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	12,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,750,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	720,000	-
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	230,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul		125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	410,000	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
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Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	8,800,000	Please Call

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Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
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Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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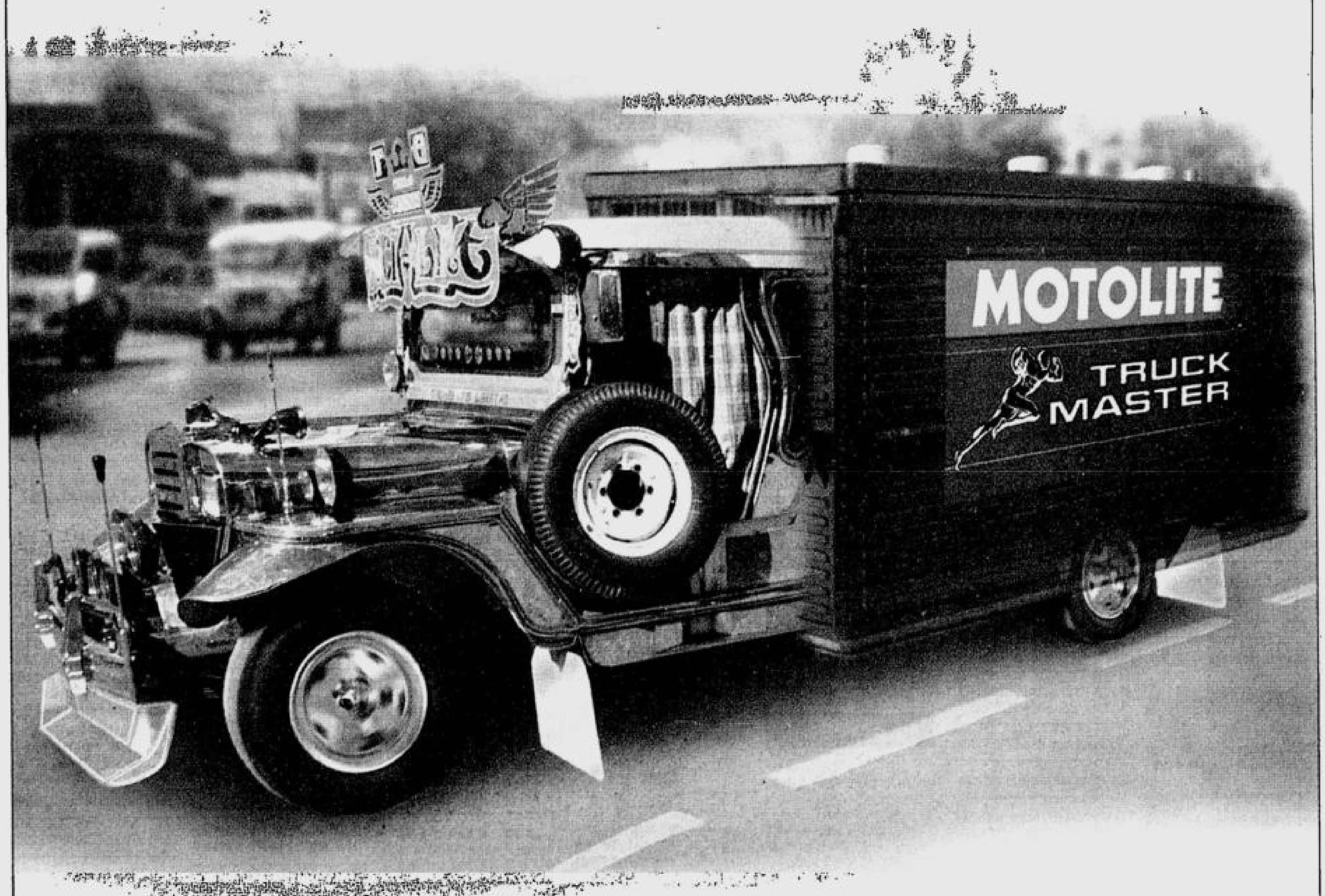

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that the ff. passport of RICHARD FLORES (FF070507), NORA FLORES (DD029328), DOMINIC FLORES (DD029329), NERISSA FLORES (FF070609) w/re-entry VISA & Return tickets to Saudi Arabia were lost on May 28 at MIA. Pls. call 0919-8895938 - Nora
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Notice is hereby given that the SAN MIGUEL CORP. Stock Cert. No 93090207 for 32 Class A Shares in the name of ANDREA C. BELTRAN has been Lost. If no contest is received new cert. will be issued. (PDI-June 5, 12 & 19, 2002)

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PDIC willing to raise deposit insurance by 250%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. said it was open to increasing by 250 percent the insurance coverage of bank deposits to P350,000 from the present P100,000 if the banks or the depositors were willing to pay a higher premium.

Pending bills in Congress seeking amendments to PDIC's charter were proposing an increase in the deposit insurance coverage to P200,000 or double the existing level.

However, PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said in an interview that the agency had studied the possibility of setting the insurance coverage at a higher level of P350,000 admitting that the level was insufficient.

"We studied this possibility upon the recommendation of Rep. (Jesli) Lapus and we think the increase to P350,000 is possible. However, this will involve additional premium from depositors," he said.

Banks currently pay the PDIC a fee or premium of 0.005 percent per P100,000 or below of deposits.

Nazareno said increasing the insurance coverage to P350,000 would force the PDIC to increase the premium by about 50 basis points. He said an increase to P200,000 would not require a higher premium, he added.

"We have to study this further but if we increase the insurance coverage to P350,000, our finances may not be able to afford it," said the PDIC chief. Banks, he said, might not be willing to bear the additional cost and they would most likely pass the added cost on to the depositors.

The increase in the PDIC deposit insurance to P200,000 is one of the major features of the proposed amendments to the insurer's charter and was identified by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council as among its priorities for enactment during the 12th Congress.

The amendments to the PDIC charter also aim to strengthen the regulatory powers of the bank insurer. Amendments to the charter of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas were also pending in Congress.

Gov't urged to keep tariff shield on vehicle industry up to 2010

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE automotive assemblers and parts makers are making a last-minute plea to the government to extend the tariff shield on their products up to 2010 to protect their businesses from imports.

A source said assemblers and parts makers wanted duties on completely built up (CBU) units kept at 30 percent in order to keep their businesses viable and to sustain their factories that employ thousands of Filipino workers.

Assemblers currently enjoy a tariff advantage against imports because duties on completely knocked down (CKD) units are levied 10 percent for passenger cars and 3 percent for commercial vehicles and motorcycles.

Parts makers benefit from the tariff structure because assemblers are forced to look for local suppliers to meet their product requirements.

They had to reiterate their appeal for tariff protection following the Department of Trade and Industry's plan to equalize tariffs on CKDs and CBUs at 5 percent next year in time for the Asean Free Trade Area.

The source said the Philippines was committed to bring down the duties on vehicles only in 2010 under the World Trade Organization.

Without the tariff protection, assemblers and parts makers are likely to discontinue their operations in the country as it becomes more profitable to bring in CBUs into the country.

Assemblers and parts makers want the government to invoke the country's right to exempt some of its industries from the mandatory tariff cuts to below 5 percent under Afta.

Oil firms cut down output due to low demand

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL oil refiners Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Petron Corp. are cutting down their production due to the continued softening of demand.

Pilipinas Shell president Eliseo Santiago said in an interview on Monday that the firm's refinery in Batangas was running at 80,000 barrels per day. This accounts for 52 percent of the refinery's maximum capacity of 165,000 barrels per day.

He said: "Even with the slowdown in our production, we have not been remiss in our obligation to serve our clients."

Santiago noted that Pilipinas Shell was importing the bulk of its gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas requirements.

"There are products that are cheaper for us to import rather than process locally," he said. "In such a case, we (favor) the more cost-efficient for us."

In a separate interview, Petron president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq said the firm's refinery in Bataan had been running at 126,000 barrels per day.

This accounts for 70 percent of Petron's maximum refining capacity of 180,000 barrels per day.

Ma'ashouq noted that Petron was also monitoring the demand in the export market as the firm was active in overseas trading.

"The market remains weak and we don't anticipate a strong recovery anytime soon," the Petron chief said.

He added that the upcoming full commercial operation of the Malampaya natural gas project would further push down the demand for oil products.

Ma'ashouq said the Malampaya gas has eaten up its share in its biggest market, National Power Corp.

In March, the Philippine Institute of Petroleum said the Malampaya gas field would reduce local oil demand by 20 percent.

By end-2001, industry figures showed that local oil consumption grew by only 1 percent from previous year's level.

Cocktales

From page B3

more made themselves scarce from media, apparently in respect to the overseas regulatory concerns as well as the sensitivities of the stockholders of the target companies.

Contrary to what was earlier reported here, the taipan did not join Anthoni Salim in his trip to Tokyo Friday to meet with the NTT executives.

Mr. John was instead spotted in Singapore on Friday attending a conference; the taipan was apparently back in Manila, like MVP, by Monday.

The Yuchengco matriarch, Helen Y. Dee, was also out of the country during last week's PLDT board meeting; it was not immediately clear whether the Yuchengcos would team up with the Cojuangcos in the putative defense, given the history of their legal hostilities.

Coincidentally, the financial adviser of both the Gokongweis and the Yuchengcos, former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel C. Singson, is also out of the country, enjoying yet another holiday/cruise with his wife.

Heard through the grapevine

WITH the reported divestment of the First Pacific Group from the country, local banks that have unsecured loans to the Metro Pacific/Fort Bonifacio projects have softened and decided to execute long-pending dacion en pago takeovers.

Metrobank, for example, took over several condo units of the flagship Pacific Plaza Towers over the weekend.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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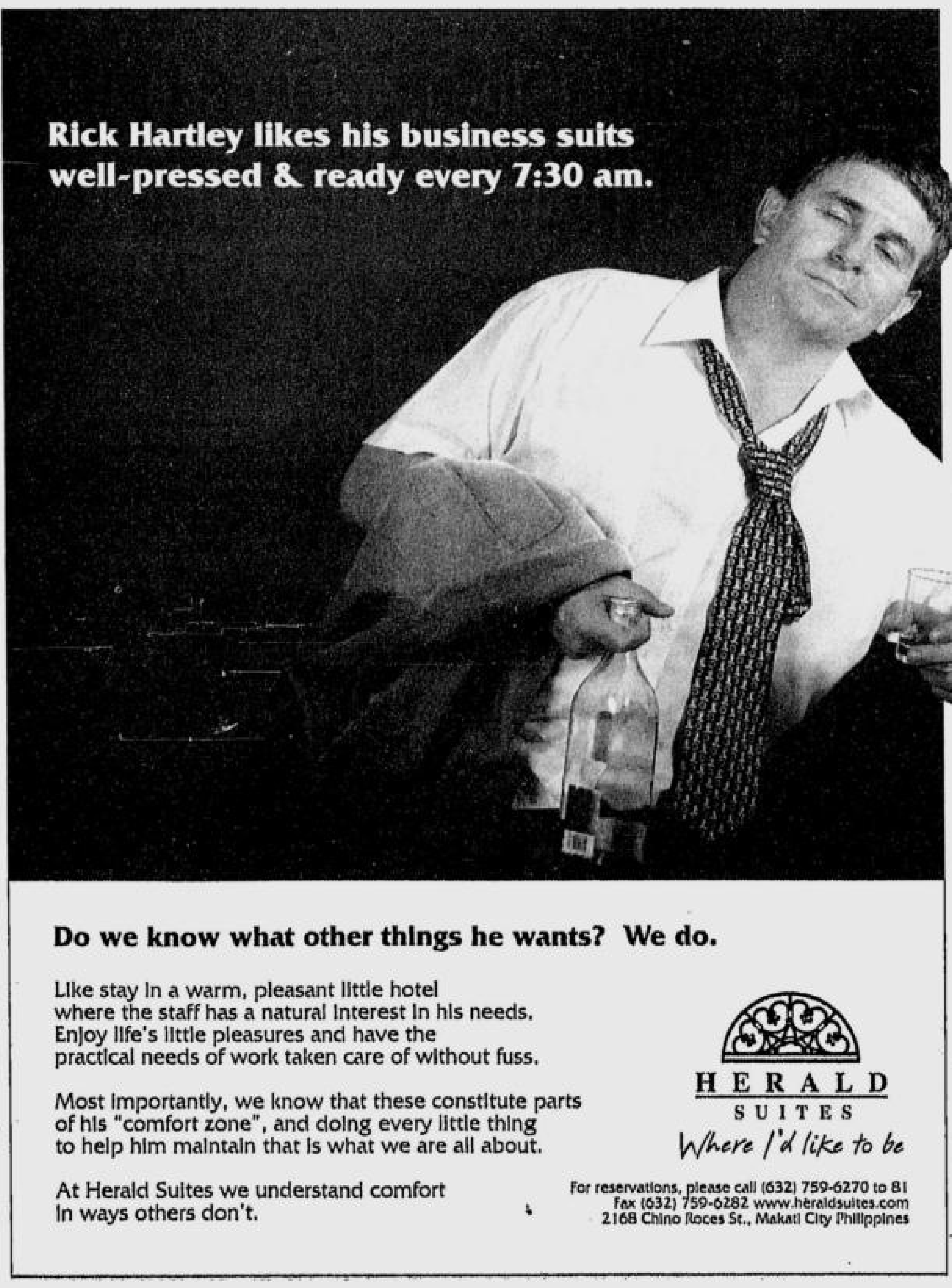
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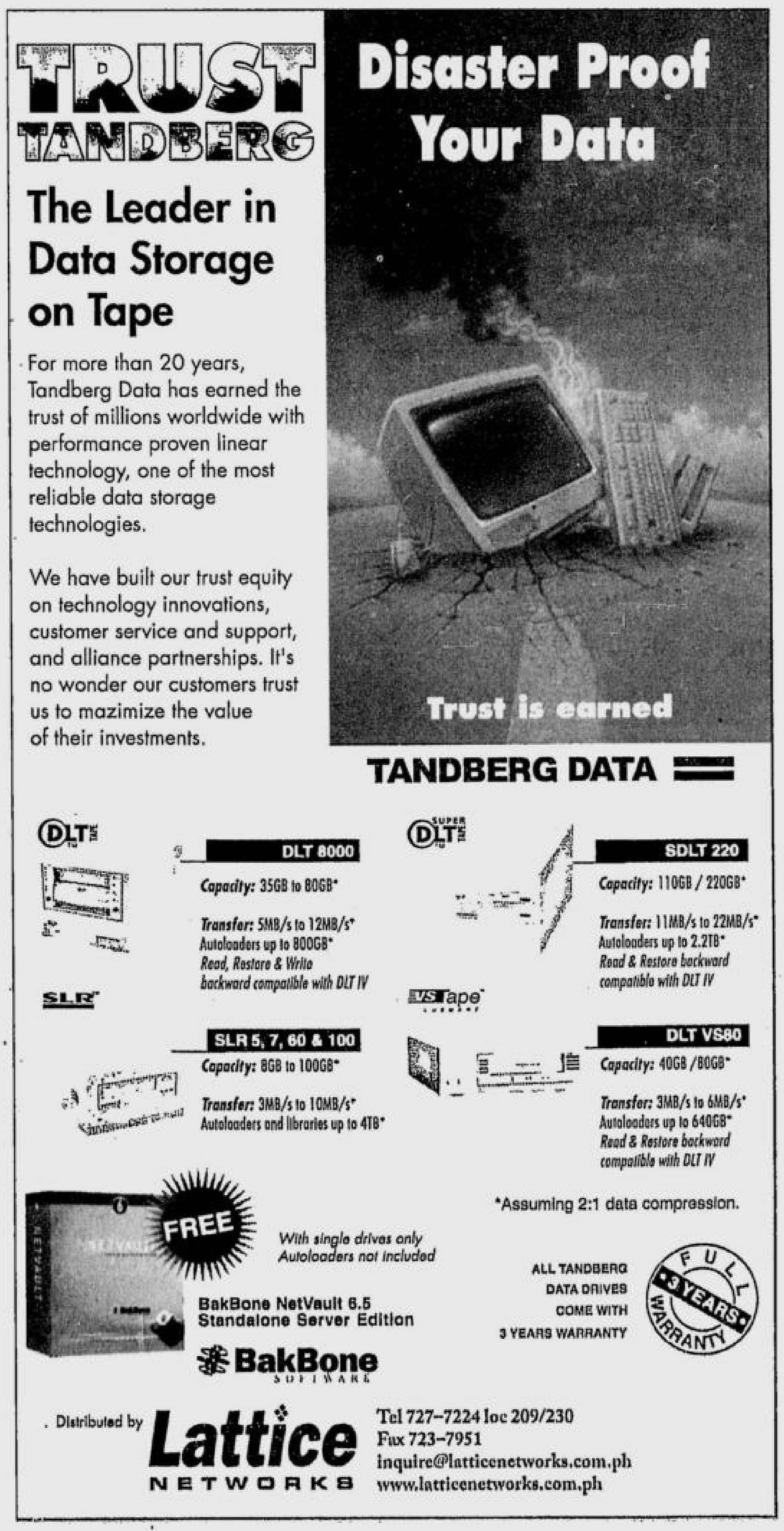
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Ayala offshore unit quits Singapore stock exchange

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA International Holdings Inc. (AIHL), an offshore unit of the Ayala group of companies, has been de-listed from the Singapore Stock Exchange starting yesterday, as part of the conglomerate's strategy to rationalize and consolidate its businesses.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Ayala Corp. managing director and head for strategic planning Rufino Luis Manotok said AIHL quit the foreign bourse, as it was now a 100-percent subsidiary of another Singapore-based unit, Ayala International Pte Ltd.

The Ayala group, which owned 82.27 percent of AIHL when it was still listed in Singapore, recently wiped out the latter's minority public float by making a voluntary cash offer to acquire all issued ordinary shares.

AIHL is engaged in property investment, development and trading. Its investments can be found in Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan.

It was acquired by the Ayala group in 1999 with the intention of focusing and facilitating the group's efforts to invest in the region's property markets.

AIHL is, thus, intended to be the conglomerate's regional property vehicle for investments outside the Philippines.

PNB set to sell P4B in acquired assets and non-allied subsidiary

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's sixth-largest lender, intends to sell about P4 billion in acquired assets and a non-allied subsidiary this year.

In an annual report sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission, PNB said the planned sale was part of its plan of operations for the year.

The bank declined to identify the non-allied subsidiary it was considering to sell.

Based on its annual report, PNB currently has 12 subsidiaries, including PNB Capital and Investment Corp., National Service Corp., PNB International Investments Corp., and PNB Securities Inc.

The bank, which is under a rehabilitation program, said it would also focus its effort on trimming past-due loans through various schemes such as loan restructuring, asset-for-debt swaps, foreclosure, debt-for-equity conversion or settlement.

The bank also said it would continue a program to raise at least P20 billion in new deposits.

It said it would rationalize its existing branch network by relocating under-performing branches to more strategic sites and will strengthen or add branches in the National Capital Region whenever possible.

To maintain its dominant position in the remittance business, PNB said it was targeting a total of $3.7 billion in foreign exchange remittances this year.

To boost the volume of remittances, the bank said it would do the following:

- Establish new offices in the United States and Canada.
- Appoint additional remittance agents in its areas of operation.
- Include southern Germany in its cross border remittance activities.
- Set up new offices in Bahrain, Rotterdam and a sub-branch in Japan.
- Forge remittance tie-ups in Italy.

Capital expenditures of the bank would be limited to priority projects, such as construction, and relocation or renovation of branch buildings.

"In view of the strict BSP guidelines on the establishment of new branches, the bank will extend its distribution channels by installing additional automated teller machines and cash recycling machines," it said.

It would also introduce value-added deposit products and continue its lending program to local government units and small and medium-scale industries.

RP urged to form new trade group

THE PHILIPPINES and other developing countries under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations must form a new trade group to push their agricultural agenda before the World Trade Organization, according to a United Nations-funded group.

For the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to negotiate better terms for their agricultural exports without compromising their position, a new trade group must be formed, according to the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

IFAD lead strategist and policy coordinator Atiqur Rahman acknowledged that there were already too many groups dealing on international trade, among them the Cairns Group, but these "could not discuss how to deal with the repercussions of one's membership to the WTO, especially the poor, if globalization hits them," he explained.

"The new grouping will take into consideration how some agricultural and industrial sectors should be compensated as trade barriers fall," said Rahman. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

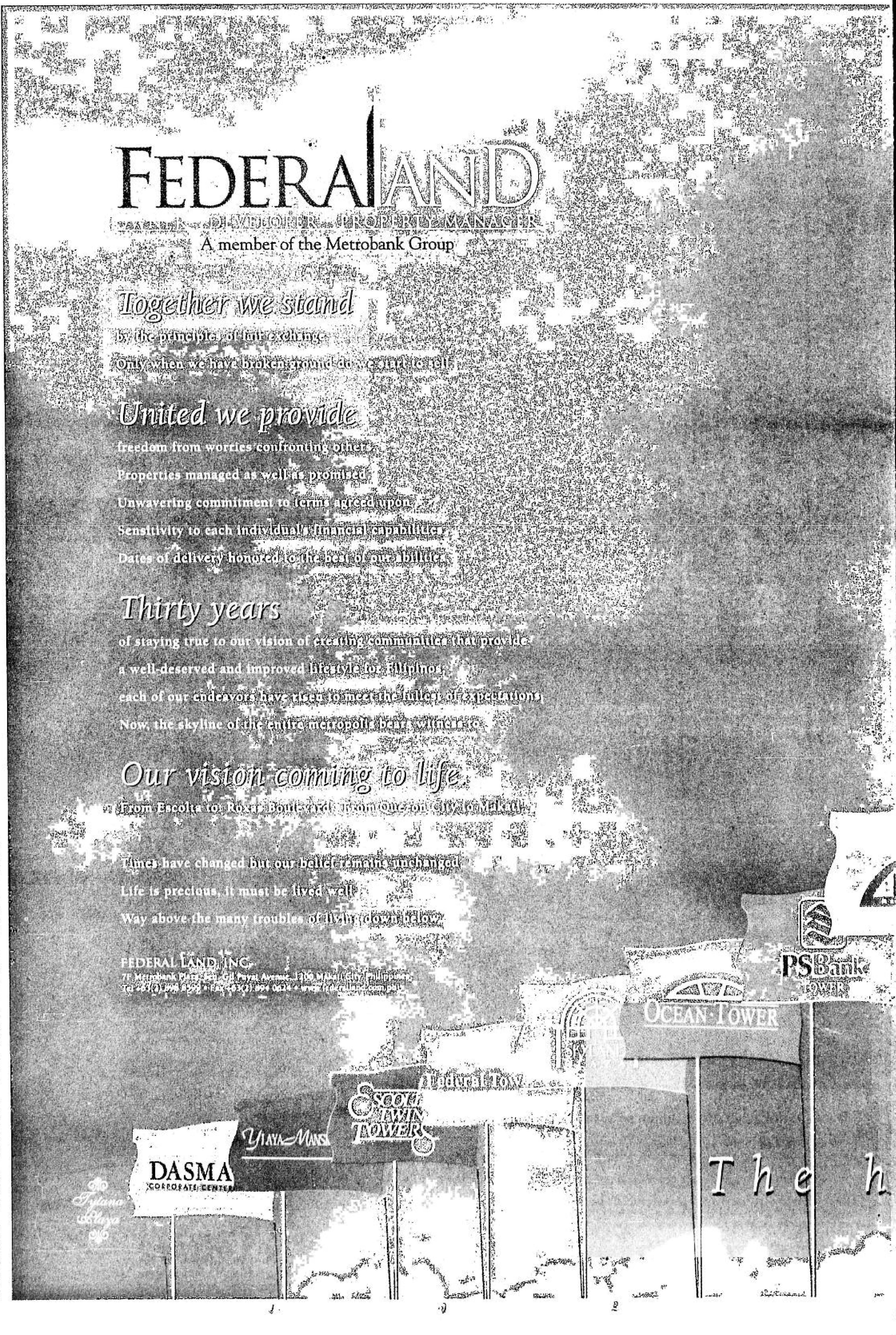
3rd ePLDT call center opens lines

ePLDT, Internet arm of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has formally opened its third call center venture, Vocativ Systems Inc., which will cater primarily to clients in the United States.

Vocativ, a joint-venture project with the second-largest US call center service provider, TeleTech Holdings Inc., is seen as a crucial first step for ePLDT to break into the US market, according to PLDT multichannel and contact center group head Rose Montenegro.

Under the supplier-purchaser agreement between ePLDT and TeleTech, Vocativ will provide marketing and promotions facilities to promote, advertise and sell clients' goods, products and services for Teletech's clients.

TeleTech's client base include big-name corporations like Microsoft Corp., Nokia Oyj, Ford Motor Co. and Singapore Airlines. ***Abigail L. Ho***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WB unit to invest $150M in RP yearly

By Elena R. Torrijos

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp., the private investment arm of the World Bank, is considering investing $140 million to $150 million in the Philippines yearly in the next two to three years.

In a briefing with reporters during the institution's 25th anniversary in the Philippines Monday, IFC regional director for East and Pacific department Javed Hamid said the volume of investments would likely finance five to seven projects in the country each year.

IFC would give priority to projects that will involve financial institutions, infrastructure, education, health, small and medium enterprises and micro financing.

"These are our priority but we can certainly do other things if there's a compelling reason to do so," Hamid said.

IFC vice president Farida Khambata, in a visit here for the anniversary celebration, said that IFC was expected to end fiscal year 2002 (ending this month) with $110 million to $165 million in investments in five to seven projects in infrastructure, information technology, finance and the retail sectors.

22.4% ...

From page B1

Joseph Roxas said.

"Companies which had cut back on purchases last year because of the loss of confidence triggered by the higher unemployment and poor performance of equities in various markets are starting to beef up their inventory now that the global economic indicators are improving," Roxas explained.

Receipts from electronic components rose by 32.9 percent in April and accounted for 53.4 percent of total earnings.

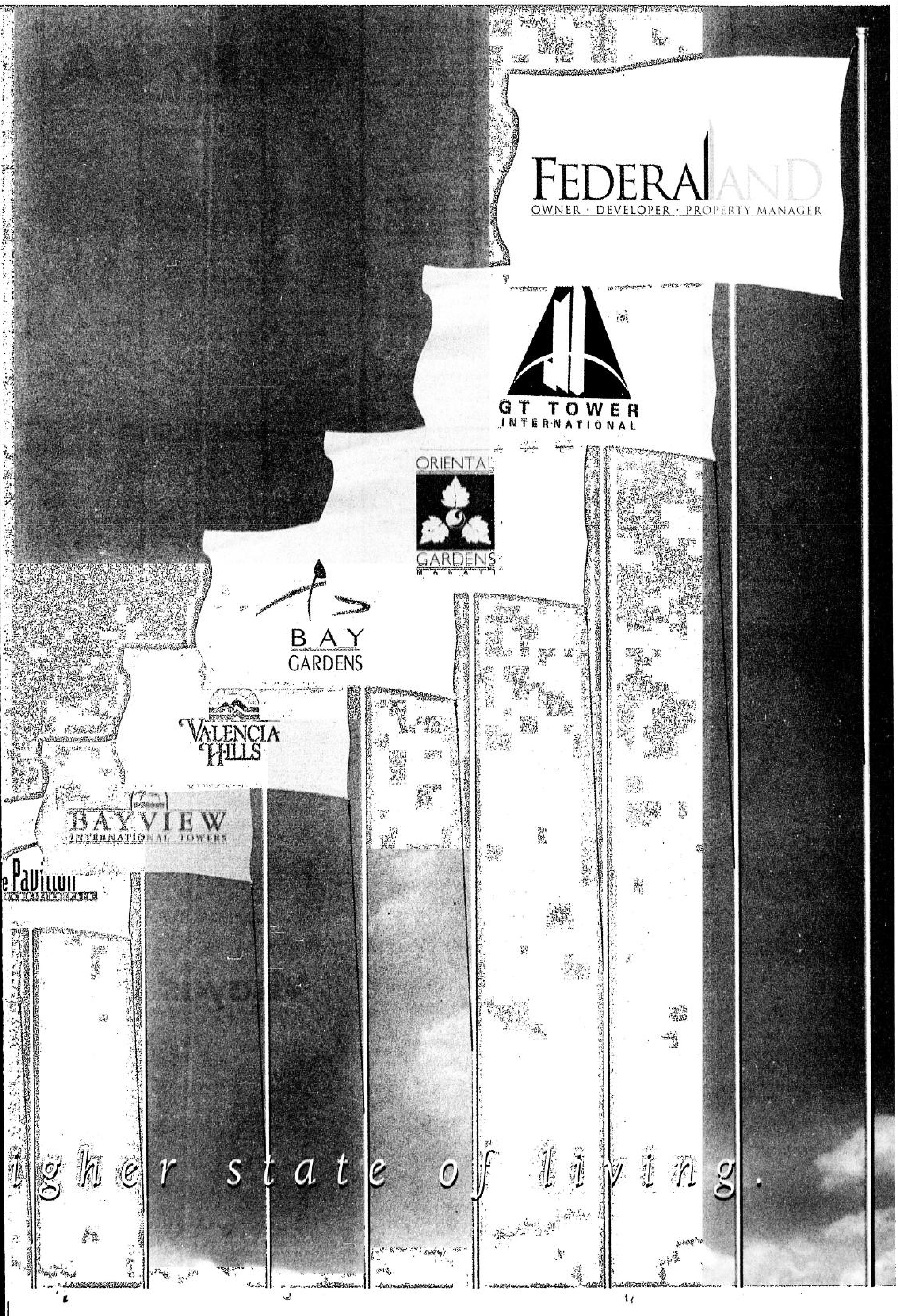
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories ranked a far second with a share of 5.6 percent. Earnings from the sector dropped by 16.2 percent.

Other top exports were ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships, woodcrafts and furniture, metal components, petroleum products, bananas, coconut oil and cathodes of refined copper.

The United States and Japan remained as the country's biggest export markets, accounting for 25.4 percent and 15.8 percent of total receipts.

Other top destinations were Taiwan, Singapore, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Germany, People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea.

Of the total exports, 89 percent consisted of manufactured goods, which rose by 24.1 percent, thus indicating a recovery in the industrial sector whose volume remained sluggish in the first quarter. *Doris C. Dumlao*



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- *Candidates who qualify will be sponsored by the company to take the Japan IT Standard Examination (JITSE) on 08 September 2002.*
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YOUR FATHER. THERE IS NO ONE IN THE WORLD QUITE LIKE HIM. SURELY HE DESERVES MORE THAN JUST THE USUAL CARD-AND-TIE PRESENT. ON HIS SPECIAL DAY, GIVE HIM A GIFT THAT IS AS UNIQUE AS HE IS.

EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR DAD – GREET HIM IN THE FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL SECTION OF THE INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS ON JUNE 16. FOR A DISCOUNTED RATE OF P50 PER LINE OR P150 PER COLUMN CENTIMETER, YOUR DAD ALSO GETS A CHANCE TO WIN GIFT CERTIFICATES IN OUR HIP HOP POP RAFFLE.

SO THIS FATHER'S DAY, LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU'RE SIMPLY GRATEFUL AND PROUD JUST TO CALL HIM YOUR FATHER.
FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT OR CALL ANY OF OUR BRANCHES.

HIP HOP POP
FATHER'S DAY PROMO

RATES ARE VAT EXCLUSIVE AND APPLY ONLY ON THE JUNE 16 ISSUE.

PROMO MECHANICS

1. **For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.**
2. **Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.**
3. **Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/ winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.**
4. **The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official OTI representative.**
5. **An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.**
6. **GCs are not convertible to cash.**
7. **Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.**
8. **Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.**
9. **GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from OTI.**
10. **Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.**
11. **Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.**

Sample Ads

Happy Father's Day Daddy!
Love,
Gabby,
Miko,
Isa,
Johnny,
Munta

To my Daddy, Nick:
Someday I'll make you proud of me, just as I am of you. I love you.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADIDA!
From your honey pie,
AUBREY

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 vat inclusive

Happy Father's Day Papa! Thank you for everything. We love you. *Moreen & Matt*

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

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Direct 897-8425
Trunkline 897 8808 loc. 614, 616, 237 or 243
Telefax 897-8425
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E-mail cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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Kalaw Branch
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E-mail kalaw_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

Provincial Branch
Tel nos. (02) 897-4427
or (02) 897-8808 loc. 243
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E-mail nabac@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MESSAGEBoard
PER OTI-NCR PERMIT NO.1516 SERIES OF 2002.

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Point to ponder

Q. Which is the correct quote: "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" or "A little learning is a dangerous thing"?

A. "A little *learning* is a dangerous thing" is what English poet-satirist Alexander Pope actually wrote. Here, from part 2 of his An Essay on Criticism, published in 1711 though written somewhat earlier, when Pope was just 21 years old, are the lines containing his famous, if often misquoted phrase: *A little learning is a dangerous thing; / Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring: / There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain, / And drinking largely sobers us again.*

Who's No. 1? The countries with the most universities: 1. India - 8,407; 2. United States - 5,758; 3 Argentina - 1,705; 4. Spain - 1,1415; 5. Mexico - 1,341; 6. Bangladesh - 1,2681 7. Indonesia - 1,236; 8. Japan - 1,223; 9. France - 1,062; 10. China - 1,054.

Classified Odd. Acting on a tip that students taking an army entrance examination at Thailand's prestigious Ramkhamhaeng University would be using high-tech cheating devices. Thai police searched more than 10,000 applicants and arrested 75 students whom they found wearing diapers equipped with battery-operated radio receivers. Each reportedly paid the equivalent of nearly P50,000 to have answers transmitted. A year earlier in 1993, university students in India's Bihar State rioted, demanding the right to cheat in their exams. After being denied permission to bring their notes into the testing hall, students set fire to railroad stations, police stations and government buildings before police opened fire, killing one rioter and wounding about a dozen.

WORD WATCH

Kamote : Tagalog slang for 'dimwit, from the Spanish-Mexican slang *camote*, 'blockhead.'

PDI – June 5, 2002

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER*, convenient na sulit pa!*

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

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Bubbles N' Swirls
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Bacolod City
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Cell No. (0917) 985-2691

Cebu
Cebu Daily News
16-16 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel No. (032) 232-7618

Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel Nos. (035) 225-6799/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1162

Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel No. (033) 336-9932
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprises
RB Newspapers, Magazine &
Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel Nos. (036) 262-4156/268-6200

Roxas City
Ms. Marleta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel Nos. (036) 621-5586/622-6926

Tacloban City
Mr. Nell Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954

Tagbilaran City
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Doña Rosario Village
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director.

In loving memory of

Luz Puyat Martel

1924-1995

on her 78th Birthday,

Holy Masses will be offered in the following Churches:

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:15 p.m.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila	7:15 a.m.
OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City	5:30 p.m.
DON BOSCO PARISH, ST. JOHN Pasay Road, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
HARRISON PLAZA CHAPEL Harrison Plaza, Malate, Manila	5:30 p.m.
ASSUMPTION PARISH Leveriza St., Malate, Manila	6:00 a.m.
MANILA CATHEDRAL Intramuros, Manila	7:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH Quiapo, Manila	7:30 a.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 a.m.
OUR LADY OF SORROW F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	7:00 a.m.

Her family requests all pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

Our Dearly Beloved Mom

Teofila Aguilar Tan

Born November 3, 1924

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 1, 2002 at the age of 77.

Beloved wife of the late **Priscilo M. Tan**; loving mother of **Maria Cecilia**; **Josephine** and **Agapito**; **Joselito** and **Elizabeth**; and **Carina**; doting grandmother of **Dennis Michael** and **Severina**; **David Oliver**; **Rita Monica**; **Shannon Louise**; **Katrina**; **Kim Rinna**; **Megan** and **Samantha**;

Loving great grandmother to **Samantha**; Loving sister of **Dolores**, **Editha** & **Mercedes**; Devoted daughter of **Gregorio** & **Luisa**.

Other relatives & friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Laguna Memorial Chapels, Calamba City.

Interment will be held at Calamba Memorial Garden, Bañadero, Calamba City on Thursday, June 6, 2002, after the 2pm Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

PEDRO C. HERRERA

of Samboan, Cebu

Retired Head, Visayas & Mindanao Operations
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.,

peacefully joined his Creator on June 3, 2002 at the age of 77 in Cebu City.

His loving wife **ALBERTA C. HERRERA**, retired Bureau of Food & Drugs regional supervisor for Central Visayas; daughters **MA. LOURDES**, **JOSEPHINE**, **CARMELITA**, **MA. CORAZON**, **MARCELA DESIREE** & son-in-law **JOSEPH KIMSENG**; son **JOSELITO** & daughter-in-law **CHRISTINE**; grandchildren **NIKKI**, **MARY** & **ABBY**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu.

His ashes will be brought to the Cebu Memorial Park on Saturday, June 8, 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Rolling Hills and cremation at 11:00 a.m.

His Excellency
Most Rev. DIOSDADO A. TALAMAYAN, D.D.
Archbishop of Tuguegarao

The Clergy, Religious and the Laity
of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao

together with

***Engr. Saturnino Domingo** and family*
***Mrs. Dionicia Domingo - Carmona** and family*

Announce with deep joy the entrance to the everlasting life in the loving embrace of the Eternal Shepherd of

MOST REV. TEODULFO S. DOMINGO, D.D.

Archbishop Emeritus of Tuguegarao

on 03 June 2002 at the age of 91.

Ordained Bishop - 02 July 1957
Served as Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao for 29 years until his retirement in 1986.

His remains lie in state at the Family Residence at San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan. Funeral Mass will be at St. Joseph, the Worker Parish, San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan on 10 June 2002 at 8:00 A.M.

The Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on Tuesday, 11 June 2002 at 9:00 A.M. St. Peter's Cathedral, Tuguegarao City.

Interment will follow immediately at St. Peter's Cathedral, Tuguegarao City.

Jesus said: "I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE! Whoever believes in Me, though he should DIE, will come to life and whoever is alive and believes in Me will never DIE." Jn 11.26

Our Dearly Beloved

PROSPERO VENTURA AQUINO

(October 4, 1937 – May 30, 2002)
of Taytay, Rizal
Peacefully joined our Lord on May 30, 2002 at the age of 64.

His loving wife **Elizabeth Javier Aquino**; children **Bernadette & Al**, **Benjim & Liz**, **Benchito & Malou**, **Bethina & Girard**, **Prosebeth & Oliver** and **Pearliza**; brothers **Romeo**, **Armando & Evelyn**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

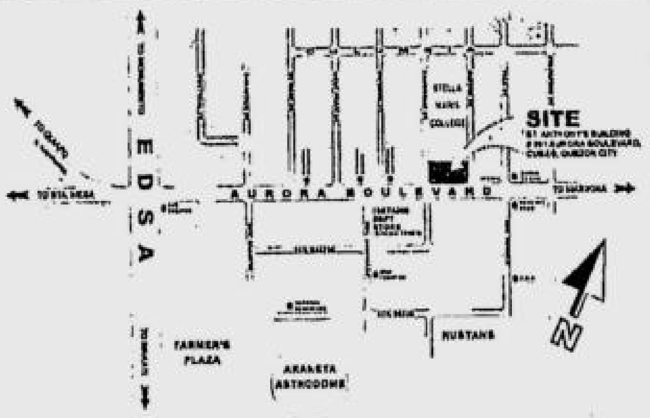
His remains lie in state at their residence at No. 309 Quirino St., Admiral Village, Taytay, Rizal (Tel. 658-5011).

Interment will be on June 7, 2002 at 2:30 p.m. at Taytay Catholic Cemetery.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



Data cement view Japan has reached bottom

TOKYO—Japan's indices compiling recent indicators have cemented views the economy has bottomed out, but policymakers are keeping busy compiling long-term growth measures, wary of the fragility of the nation's recovery.

Fresh data showed the index of coincident indicators, which reflected current economic conditions, was at a preliminary 77.8 in April on a scale of 100, up from a revised 65 in March.

It stood above the boom-or-bust 50 level for the second straight month.

"We will continue to closely watch future developments such as overseas economies and final demand to judge whether these movements will lead to a turning point for the economy," a Cabinet Office official said. He said he expected the coincident index to remain above 50 in May.

Generally, a rise in the coincident index, which includes industrial output and retail sales, for three months in a row suggests the economy has entered an expansionary phase.

The diffusion index of leading economic indicators, including housing starts and new job offers, for April was 72.2 compared with a revised 81.8 a month earlier, above 50 for the fourth straight month and underscoring a cyclical, albeit mild, recovery phase.

The Cabinet official said the reading above 50 reflected the progress in inventory adjustments and improvement in consumer sentiment.

Taro Saito, an economist at NLI Research Institute, said: "The data confirmed the economy has bottomed out. We have been seeing signs of bottoming out since last month but these figures were a stronger indication."

It was the first time since June 2000 that all three indices—leading, coincident and lagging—came in above 50.

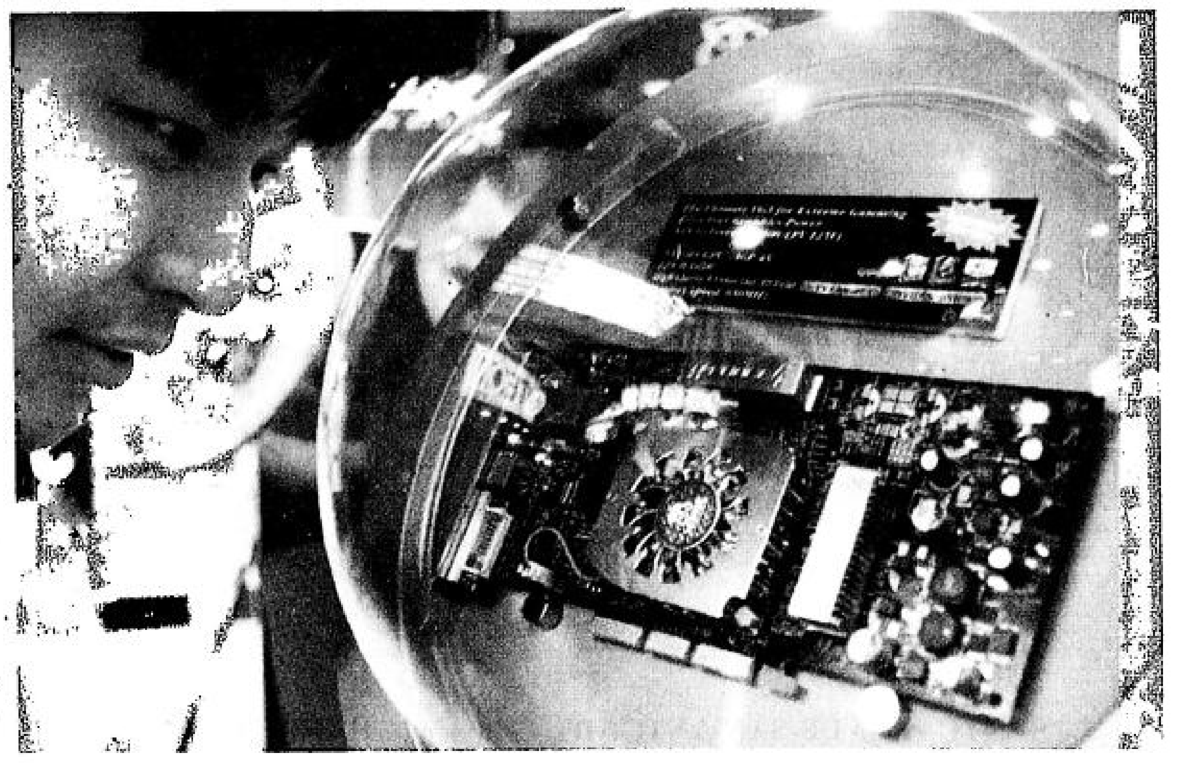
Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, speaking days before first quarter gross domestic product figures were expected to show the first economic expansion in four quarters, stressed that recent data painted a brighter economic picture.

"Looking at statistics available at the moment, they appear to underscore the judgment that we have made in our monthly report," Takenaka told a news conference.

The upbeat data did little to reverse a slide in the benchmark Nikkei stock average, which ended down more than 2 percent at 11,653.07 due to a global slump in technology shares.

The yen was little changed around 123.53 to the dollar, held hostage by threats of yen-selling Japanese intervention.

Despite the improving economy, ruling coalition parties have been stepping up pressure on Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's administration to come up with another policy package to spur growth and halt a debilitating three-year run of deflation. *Reuters*



A CUSTOMER looks at a Japanese made Nvidia Nfinite FX II during a computer show at the World Trade Center in Taipei. The four-day Computex Taipei 2002 registered around 1,108 exhibitors and 2,306 booths, becoming Asia's largest IT show. AFP

Global consulting market to exceed $86B by 2006

SINGAPORE—Global demand for business and information technology consulting services is set to generate a market worth $86.4 billion in four years, an industry monitor said Tuesday.

Demand for business consulting is projected to be worth $54.2 billion by 2006, while IT services will reach $32.2 billion, International Data Corp. said in a report.

It said the two segments were increasingly being offered as a total package with "business and IT issues are becoming increasingly interrelated in the modern marketplace."

"One common trend to both consulting services market is the expected decline of the overall volume of standalone business consulting and IT consulting activity, especially in more mature regions such as the United States." *AFP*

HK data show worrying investments drop

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's economy, struggling to emerge from its second recession in just four years, may be showing modest signs of recovery, but its once pivotal role as entrepot to China is fast eroding.

Exports are improving, its moribund real estate market is showing signs of life, and most commentators are predicting a mild economic recovery.

But the release of first quarter gross domestic product data last Friday showed a steep drop in investment into the territory.

That, say economists, shows Hong Kong's traditional position as middleman between China and the rest of the world, a role on which its prosperity has long been been based, is being undermined by the emergence of mainland competition.

"The weakness in private investment really worries me," said Stephen Cheung, professor of finance and economics at Hong Kong's City University.

Falling foreign investment gives local businesses fewer incentives to expand, crimping job creation and further denting domestic consumer demand, said Cheung.

With record unemployment, currently at 7.1 percent, and three-and-a-half years of deflation in consumer prices, Hong Kong's normally avid shoppers are keeping a tight rein on their purse strings as job losses and pay cuts take their toll.

"There used to be great traffic jams on Fridays. But they're not that serious any more because the economy is poor," said a 10-year veteran taxi driver. "In the past, passengers who boarded my taxi after office hours on Fridays were all very cheerful. Now, eight out of 10 look sad."

The government reported last Friday that gross domestic product shrank by a slightly worse than expected 0.9 percent in the first quarter year-on-year, a slower rate of contraction than the 1.4-percent shrinkage in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Financial Secretary Antony Leung said the government was sticking to its full year growth forecast of one percent, following the paltry 0.1 percent growth rate in 2001. Even at the faster projected rates of private sector economists, the territory would still lag behind most of its Asian peers this year.

The property sector, a pillar of the local economy, remains depressed as prices remain 50-60 percent below their 1997 peaks despite an uptick in transactions as people take advantage of deep discounts from developers and low interest rates. *Reuters*

Hitachi to buy IBM's hard disk drives arm for $2.05B

TOKYO—Japan's Hitachi Ltd. will take over the hard disk drives business of US computer giant IBM for $2.05 billion, the two companies said Tuesday.

The companies will spin off their HDD businesses into a new joint venture to be wholly owned by the Japanese firm in three years after it starts with an initial 70-percent stake.

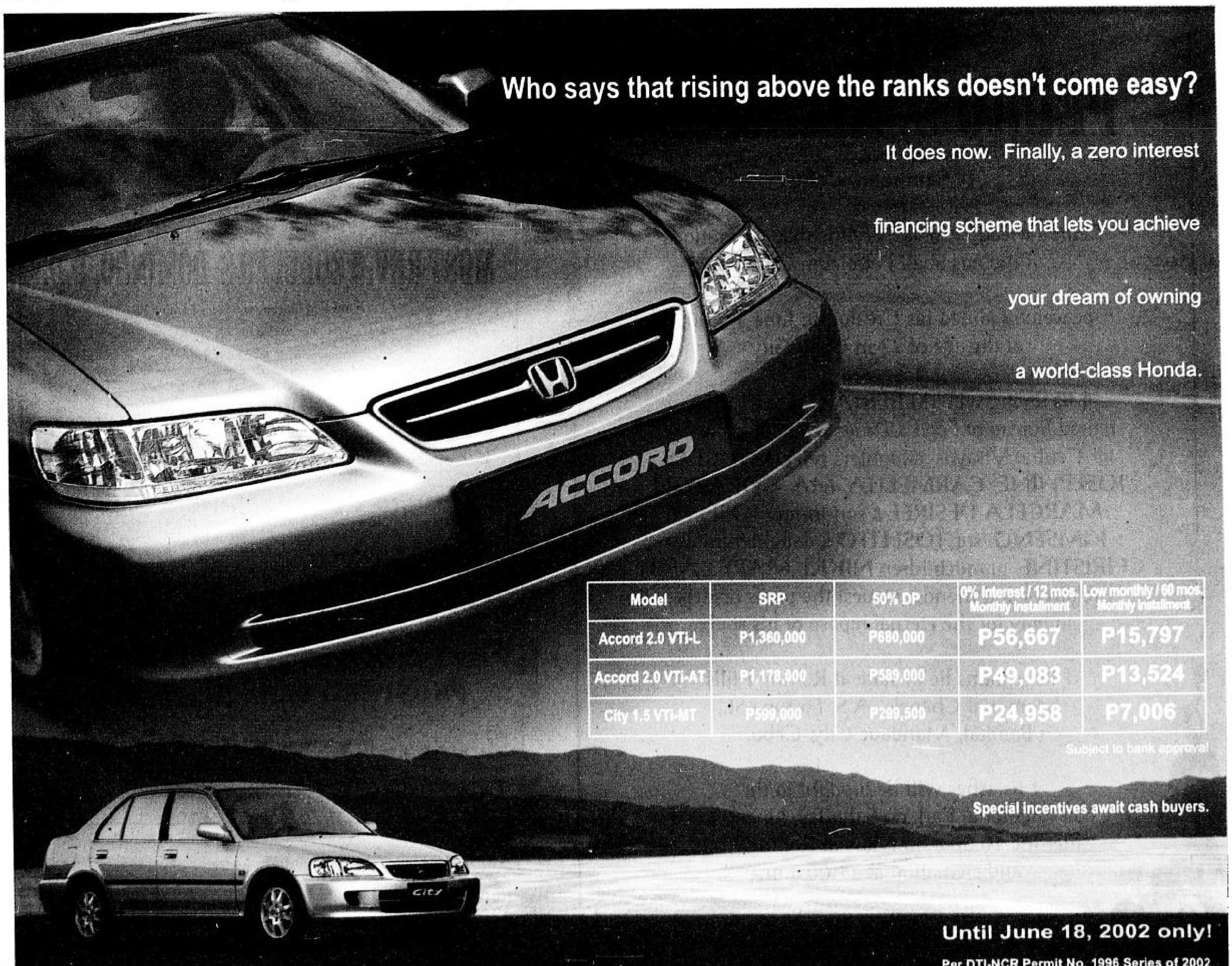
"Hitachi has agreed to purchase the majority of IBM's HDD-related assets for $2.05 billion," including the transfer of its intellectual property portfolio to the new venture, the companies said in a statement.

"Hitachi will initially own 70 percent of this new company and will make a series of fixed payments to IBM before assuming full ownership after three years," they said.

The new firm will be based in San Jose, California, with Hitachi selecting the board of directors. IBM will not be involved in its operations.

Hitachi estimated the new company could provide some $5 billion in sales in the year to March 2004 and is targeting annual sales of $7 billion by the year to March 2007.

"By combining HDD research, development, manufacturing, marketing and sales, we are creating a new industry leader fully focused on the $20-billion disk-drive market," Hitachi senior vice president Masaaki Hayashi said in the statement. *AFP*



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City 1.5 VTi-MT	P599,000	P299,500	P24,958	P7,006

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HONDA

Learners sharpen workplace skills

MAPA

SANTAMARIA

CECILIA

RAMION

"SHARPENING the saw," was what learners did in the second-quarter offering of the People at Work Live! Seminar Series held last May 28 to May 30 at the Equitable-PCI Bank Bldg. The seminar series focused on key competencies on the personal, interpersonal and organizational levels. Over a thousand working people and students attended the series.

Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, discussed "Developing Personal Mastery" last May 28. He discussed useful tips on improving oneself toward the attainment of personal mastery. He also tackled the basic principles and concepts on personal mastery. On May 29, Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., talked about "Developing your Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Results." Santamaria explained how emotional intelligence can help an employee be more efficient and effective in the workplace. On May 30, Lirio Mapa, vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change Inc., tackled "Building Synergy for Workplace Results." Joy Fallarme Neri, training manager of Systematics, emceed the seminar.

To celebrate the second year anniversary of the People at Work section, a special seminar was also held for CEOs, CFOs and HR executives. Norman Ramion, regional senior HR consultant of Mercer Human Resources Consulting Group, gave a seminar on "Measuring the Return of Investment on Human Capital" last May 30.

The May run was made possible with the support of INQUIRER Jobmarket, Inq7's Jobmarket Online, Equitable PCI Bank, ABS-CBN Publishing/Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines, Adobo Interactive, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., EC Business Solutions and Career Center, and Career Systems Inc. The People at Work Live! Seminar Series is being organized by Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc. for the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The next run will feature an international author, columnist, webmaster and consultant, Bob Rosner. He will be presenting "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "The Working Wounded Survival Guide" on Aug. 15. For inquiries, call tel. 414-0186, 414-0587.

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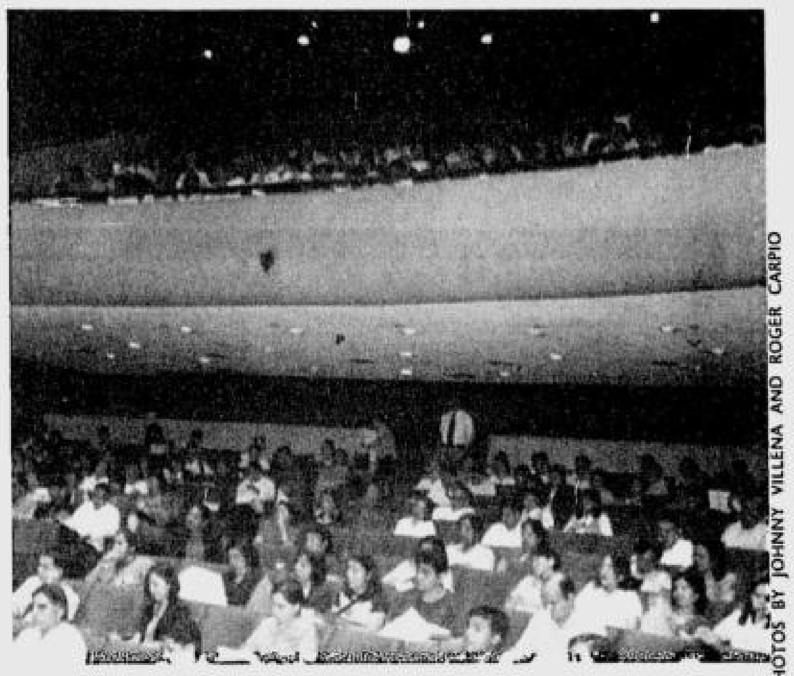
FREE-AGENT learners: a new breed of Pinoys at work

WORKING moms hurry to buy ABS-CBN Publishing magazines at bargain prices at their booth.

PARTICIPANTS get their seminar kits from corporate-attired student volunteers from San Beda College.


PARTICIPANTS in the balcony learn from the top

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA AND ROGER CARPIO

Bankrupt entrepreneur seeks advice

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I HASTENED to write you this letter hoping to get some advice. I am so down, afraid, troubled, confused and lonely. All these feelings are due to my financial problems that are currently bugging me. These started when our business went bankrupt and we had so many bills to pay and we could no longer meet the due dates and all.

I'm currently employed and these financial worries have already affected my work, family life and my will to live. I have done all the possible things so as to pay these payables, but it seems I have reached a dead-end. I desperately need your advice or possibly, help! Many times I thought of ending my life or do something not good which will eventually lead me to jail. But my fear of God has stopped me from doing all these things. I have doubled my prayers so that the Blessed Virgin will keep me under her care. But I have this fear, great fear of losing my wife and son, whom I love very much.

Presently, I am living my life one day at a time, no day passes without collectors calling me and some even threatening to sue me. I eagerly wait for your advice on what to do. Thank you for your precious time. Best regards and God bless.

Bankrupt Businessman

If it is of some consolation, you are not alone. Many people have gone into business and have gone bankrupt. Often, this is caused by what we call "reckless venturing" or the lack of competence or simply the difficult economic situation. Many people also have managed to turn around and live full lives even after going into debt or even bankruptcy. Don't lose hope.

These are truly difficult moments and obviously you are very stressed. First of all, I suggest making a list of all your debts and come clean, especially to your wife. She deserves to know the real situation. This is not the time to hide what is happening from her. It is a crucial time to gather strength from your union. The marriage vows you declared "for richer, for poorer" carry a special grace for moments of crisis like this one. If she turns hysterical and emotional, stay calm. It is a trial. If you are able to see your problem together, it will strengthen your bond and you can count on her for emotional and even material support.

Financial counselor

Then, I realize, it would be difficult for you to view your situation with objectivity. I propose you look for friends to give you advice. You will need a financial counselor who will help you prepare a financial plan to put you back on track. Explain to him everything; don't hide anything in terms of your financial situation. He is likely to look at all your debts, assess your capacity to pay, check out if you have properties or other ways to raise funds without getting into further debt.

What you should not do is try to avoid debtors. In fact, you have to face them. Armed with your financial plan, you can meet with each of your debtors and share with them your plan. Your plan should incorporate how you intend to pay them back over time. Some of them may get angry but you may win most of them with your candor and integrity. Then, you can also look for a friend who is a lawyer. He will take a look at the legal status of your business and help you determine the extent of your liabilities. You can also consult him what to do if some of your debtors sue.

Finally, prepare the new home budget, what you need to survive as a family. This may require a major change in terms of your spending patterns. You will need the family's cooperation in terms of belt tightening. A lot of people when faced with a sudden reduction of income may go into a state of denial. They continue to spend as they did before, leaving no budget for debt servicing. You can try experiencing voluntary simplicity, where you stick to the essentials and do away with all that is in excess.

Foundation

On another matter, we have received similar requests for help after the article on "Helpless Medical Student" was published. A number of willing donors have proposed the creation of a Future Doctors Foundation, a mechanism that will act as a bridge between donors and those who need help. I truly appreciate this gesture to relieve me of the work involved while continuing to be a "helping hand." Next week, I will give you an update so you, our readers can choose to get involved. Thank you for your future support.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

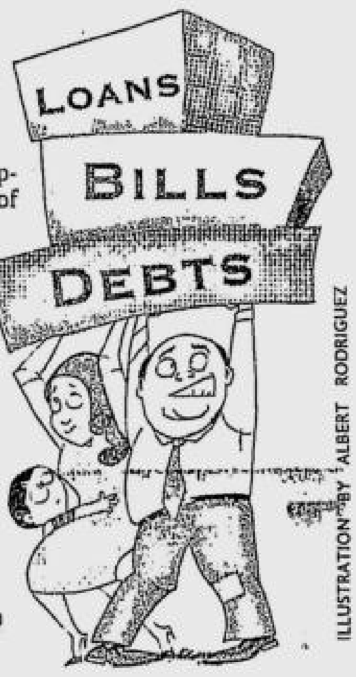


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Working...

(From page B12)

gins and the quiet gives way to the rush, the peace gives way to a test of wills.

Survey

In a survey conducted among working moms to identify the stress points in our lives, the school morning rush came up consistently. And, I am willing to bet, start-of-the-school-year mornings rate even higher on stress levels.

It's a combination of the things: the mad rush, our kids' fears, the traffic, the rain, the cycle of homework again, and on top of all that, our work is at mid-year levels with only the last six months to hit targets.

Still, the start of the school year offers us a clean slate. A chance to start over, to correct the imbalance we ended the last school year with. For women who do too much, this is the chance to see the lay of the forest without losing yourself in the trees. In other words, don't allow yourself to rush pell-mell into the school year, take time now to set up the systems that will allow you to take on mornings on a calmer yet firmer footing.

Plot schedules

If your kids are old enough, sit down with your kids to plot out their study schedules. Make joint resolutions now about *barkada* and study time, allowance and budgets, grade goals and strategies, family time and personal time. If your kids are going to school for the first time, you've got to plot out your own balance strategies. School will be another tug at your balancing act. Set the systems now before the rush truly takes over your life.

At work, be aware that this is a stressful time. For many working moms, the juggling act is translated into frantic and panic episodes. Where did I file that report? Did I really set this meeting? Is that project really due today? Where are my glasses? Where's my pen? Oh no, I forgot my kids' *baon*!

These happen a lot when school starts because the change brings on many unexpected chaos points.

To get a hold of yourself, plan as thoroughly and as calmly as you can. Go back to the basics of time management. The night before the morning rush, set aside all that you will need to bring to work, review your calendar and anticipate your needs. Prepare them the night before. At the end of the day at the office, set up your desk for the work you will do the following day.

To-do list

Review your to-do list, set out the files you will work on, prepare the list of people you will need to call. By preparing ahead, no matter what kind of mad rush your morning was, you will be ready to jump right into work when you get to the office.

When you've got the night before the rush smoothened out, try to wake up early for a few minutes of quiet time. It is in your time of serene solitude that you will find the strands of protection and security that your child needs as he enters this new stage. It is also there where you will discover how to plot out your work so that you will find the quiet and peace you will need for a truly balanced juggling act.

(An Mercado Alcantara is editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom published by ABS-CBN Publishing. For more tips, get a copy of this month's issue with Charlene Gonzales on the cover. You may reach her at workingmom@pinoycentral.com*)*

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) BayanTrade PRESENT

MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE

JUNE 19, 2002 MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), in association with BayanTrade, will conduct its prestigious annual management conference June 19, 2002. The conference will be attended exclusively by CEOs and other C-level executives, and has as its focus three central issues. The first of these issues is leadership. What kinds of leaders are required to build Asia's future industry champions? The second issue is the enterprise itself. What qualities will industry-leading enterprises exhibit? The third issue is community, an issue championed by BayanTrade, which builds and connects online communities. What will be the nature of the relationship between the enterprise and the various elements of the ecosystem in which it operates?

Each of these issues will be discussed from three perspectives: competence, character, and contribution in five panels composed of world-class international and local speakers and two plenary sessions.

Enterprise

What are the hard qualities that leading enterprises will exhibit in the New Asia? How do they make those qualities work for them?

Two panels of the MAP International CEO Conference will seek to define the character of the New Asian Corporation.

Panel Two will dissect the **yin** of the Enterprise. These are the hard qualities that make enterprises successful, such as organizational efficiency and productivity, emerging business models, new sources of profitability and setting the rules of competition.

The Lunch Panel will zero in on the **yang** of the Enterprise. These are the soft qualities that set it apart from its competitors, such as people, empowerment, governance and transparency, management of change, corporate identity and branding, and corporate citizenship.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT S. KAPLAN
AUTHOR OF
THE BALANCED SCORECARD

PANEL TWO
ENTERPRISE: DEFINING THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION I
MODERATOR:
Rex C. Drilon, II, COO, Ortigas and Co.
PANELISTS:
Brett Decker, Editorial Page Writer, Asian Wall Street Journal
Horace Yuen, Assistant Director, Management Services Agency, HK SAR Government
Roberto De Ocampo, President, Asian Insitute of Management
Jonathan Madrid, Executive Director, iAyala

LUNCH PANEL
CHARACTER: DEFINING THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION II
MODERATOR:
Che Che L. Lazaro, Producer and Host, The Probe Team
PANELISTS:
Francis Estrada, Chairman, Equity Managers Asia
Ilyas Khan, Founder, Techpacific Capital Limited
Alan Thompson, Regional Director, Stern Stewart Southeast Asia

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo @ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you deal with pressure tactics during a negotiation?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've got to negotiate a new contract with one of our largest customers. I'm a good negotiator but this guy has a reputation for playing games and using a lot of pressure tactics. Is there anything you can do when an important customer has the reputation as an unfair negotiator?

Tired Of Playing Games

Vivian Parson, who was 76, and her daughter Vivian Bryant, who was 54, were surprised when neighbors started complaining about an odor emanating from their home. They didn't smell a thing. Tampa (FL) city officials did, however, and after an investigation, condemned and demolished the house. It seems that over 1,000 rats had also set up housekeeping on the premises. When asked about her rodent roommates, the younger Vivian replied, "To be honest, we didn't notice them."

Well, the Vivians couldn't smell a rat but apparently you can and you think you've got one in your upcoming meeting with your customer. To help you better negotiate this challenge, I turned to "Roger Dawson's Secrets of Power Negotiating" (Career Press, 1995), a great resource whether you're negotiating a multi-million dollar deal or haggling with your boss about your next vacation. The questions below will help you identify and cope with the pressure tactics your opponent is most likely to use. Ask yourself each one as your negotiation proceeds.

1. Am I being given an ultimatum? Is your opponent saying things like, "The shipment must arrive by noon tomorrow?" If so, test the ultimatum. Ask if part of the shipment can be delivered then, with the rest coming at a later date.

2. Am I being handed a hot potato? Is your opponent claiming that he doesn't "have it in the budget" or that he "can't authorize this type of purchase"? Those are two classic ways in which a negotiator tries to make his problem your problem. Don't accept those statements as absolutes. Instead, ask if the negotiator has authority to exceed his budget or if she can arrange a meeting with the person who is calling the shots.

3. Am I running out of time? According to Roger, 80 percent of concessions occur in the last 20 percent of the negotiating time. To avoid these last-minute potential deal-breakers, avoid pushing off details for later in the session when the pressure on everyone is high. The more problems you solve early on, the fewer you'll potentially give in on at the 11th hour.

4. Am I working without all the information I need? Is the negotiator saying things like, "We have a policy against doing that"? If so, don't see that statement as a roadblock. Ask your opponent to explain the relevant policy in detail. By playing dumb, you may get the information you need to keep the negotiation on track.

Roger's tips should help you sniff out a rat in any negotiation. And hopefully the deal you cut will make you a big cheese back at the office.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What is the toughest kind of pressure you face at work?

—Money pressure, 12.8 percent

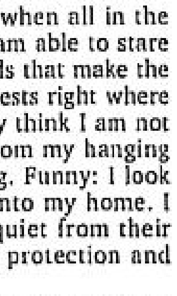
—Pressure from not having enough info, 37.8 percent

—Time pressure, 49.3 percent

Our winning strategy for handling pressure tactics at work comes from Earl L. in Toronto, Canada. "First thing is to remember that if you aren't prepared to walk away from the negotiation you are not negotiating. You are simply stating a request and hoping for the best. You need to have a "walk away" position. Perhaps the best way to handle pressure tactics is with your own pressure tactics. If you can create the sense of urgency to act (for example "I need an answer today or I'll offer this deal to your competitor) you can increase their level of interest."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

Working moms can manage 'back to school' chaos



WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

IT'S THE crack of dawn. I am sitting at my wood writing table and gazing out the window. I live in a second floor apartment with windows and balconies that open up to the crowns of a row of majestic trees. Their leaves and branches embrace our home, making me feel like I live in a tree house.

On mornings such as this, when all in the neighborhood is silent still, I am able to stare eyeball to eyeball with the birds that make the trees their home. They build nests right where I can see them and, when they think I am not looking, pluck fern tendrils from my hanging baskets to use as nest flooring. Funny: I look out at their nest; they look into my home. I harvest morning peace and quiet from their trees; they gather strands of protection and security from mine.

I take my time lingering at my desk, by my window, this morning because I know June is here. Quiet mornings will soon be a memory of summer past. When school starts, the drill be-

WORKING/B11

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*Open for Super Offer inquiries and redemptions on 13-15 June 2002, from 9AM to 5PM. For calls outside Metro Manila, please call 1-800-1-888-8555

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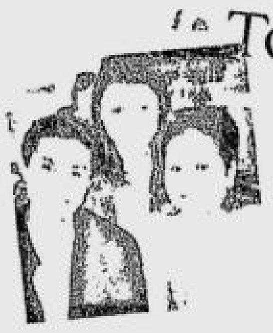
REWARDS

LIFESTYLE

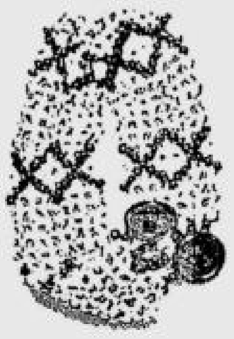
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

2bU! returns to Palawan

To be you!



GLOBE Telecom brought 2bU! to Puerto Princesa for a major summer escapade right before school starts again (groan!)



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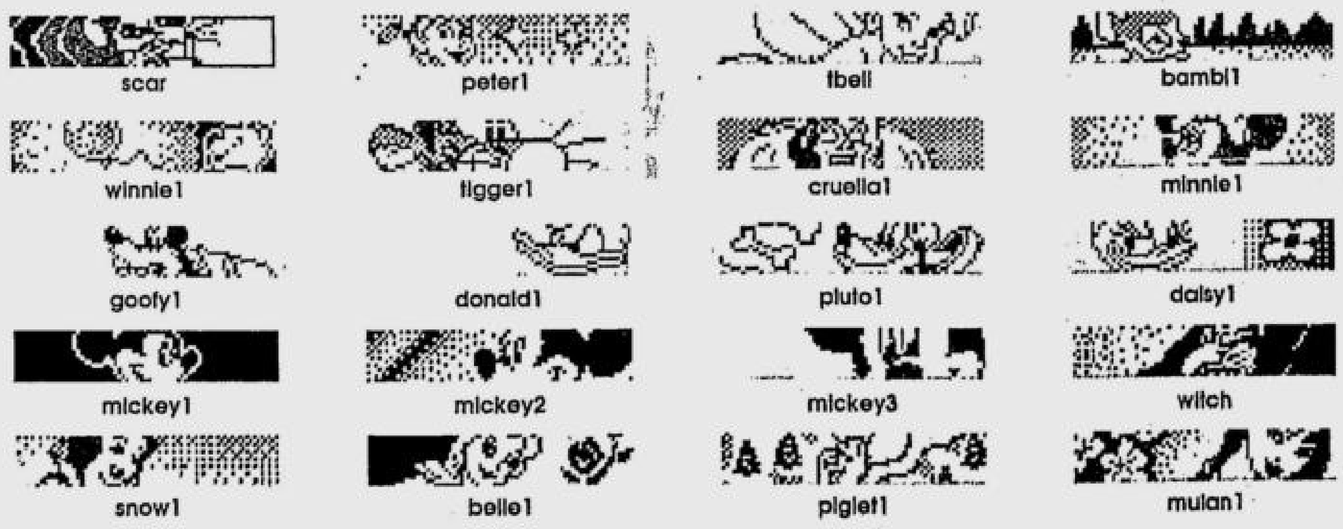

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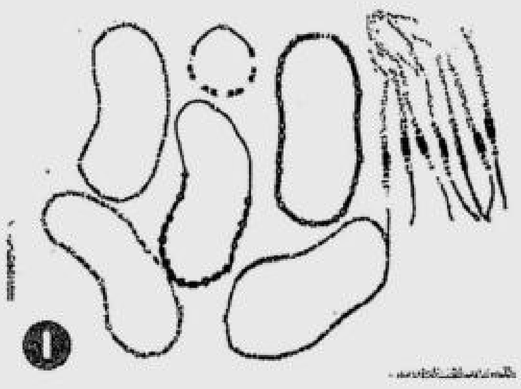
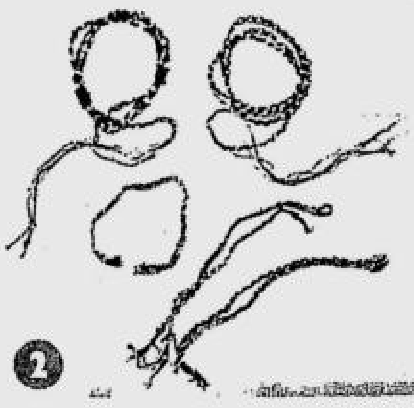
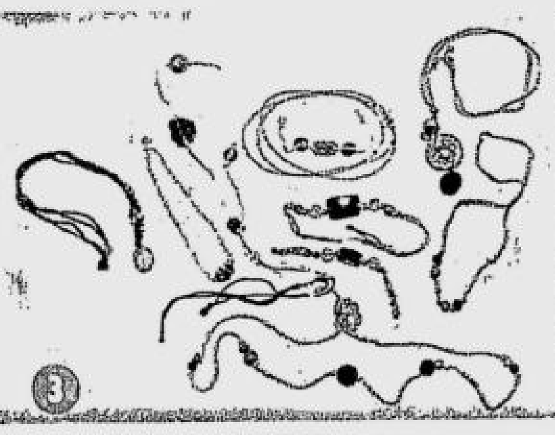
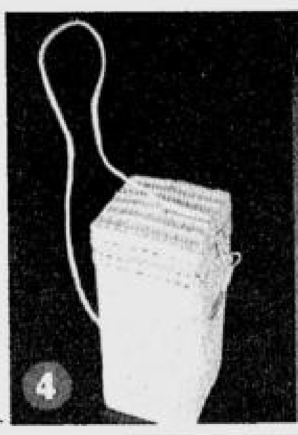
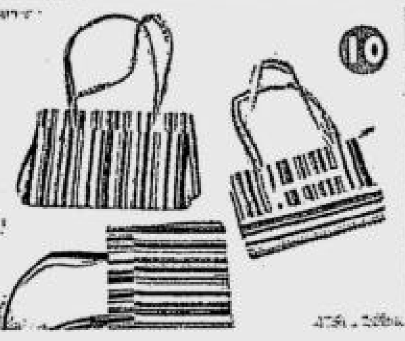
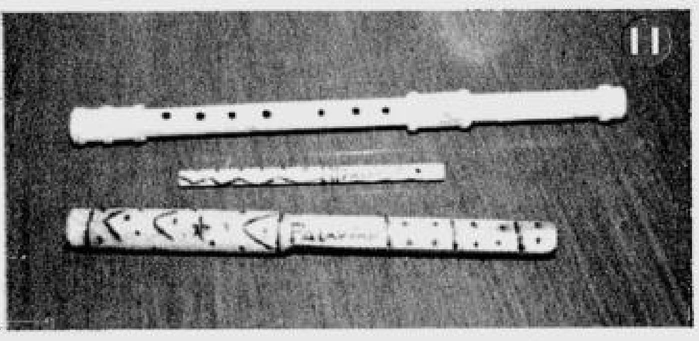
Where we went…

Photos by Jones Campos

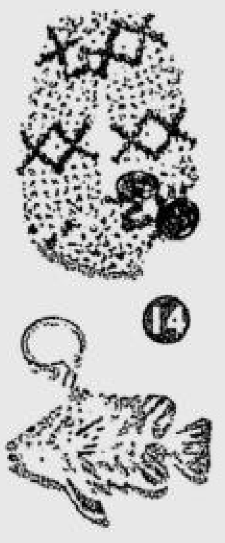
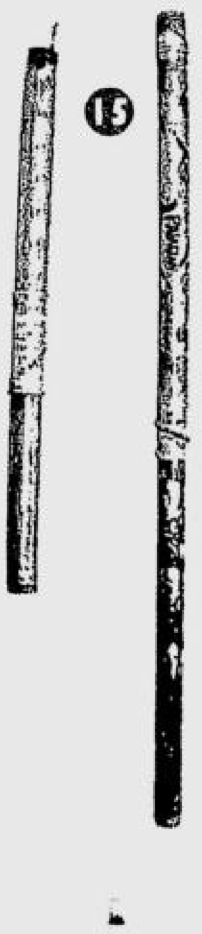
1. MARINA De Bay
2. THE UNDERGROUND River
3. DOS Palmas
4. THE CROCODILE Farm
5. SABANG
6. MITRA'S Farm
7. THE PENAL Colony
8. PUERTO Princesa Subterranean River National Park
9. THE BUTTERFLY Garden

…what we bought

1. **WOODEN** beads and woven bracelets from NCCC.
2. **BEAD** belts and friendship bracelets from The Croc Farm's souvenir shop.
3. **HIPPIE** accessories from Palawan Treasures (near the airport)
4. **IDEAL** for stuffing with *pasalubong*.
5. **NATIVE** bag from the Penal Colony.
6. **WOODEN CHIMES** from Surublien Trade House (inside the airport)
7. **ULTRA-COMFY** shorts for only P70 at NCCC
8. **PILLOW** from Dos Palmas
9. **PERFECT** for lounging: Tie-dye pants from Dos Palmas
10. **MULTI-COLORED** bags of various shapes from NCCC
11. **ETHNIC** musical instruments from Surublien Trade House (inside the airport)
12. **SOUVENIR** shirt from NCCC.
13. **A DRAGON** statuette from Iwahig Penal Colony
14. **BEADED** bracelet from Palawan Treasures. Fish keychain from NCCC.
15. **RAINSTICKS** from various Palawan souvenir shops.

DELIGHT DAD ON DADDY'S DAY

[illegible]

HIP HOP POP

PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

Sample Ads

Happy Father's Day Daddy!
Love, Gabby, Miko, Isa, Johnny, Marila

To my Daddy, Mick:
Someday I'll make you proud of me, just as I am of you. I love you.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADIDA!
From your honey pie, AUBREY

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 vat inclusive

Happy Father's Day Papa! Thank you for everything. We love you. *Moreen & Matt*

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

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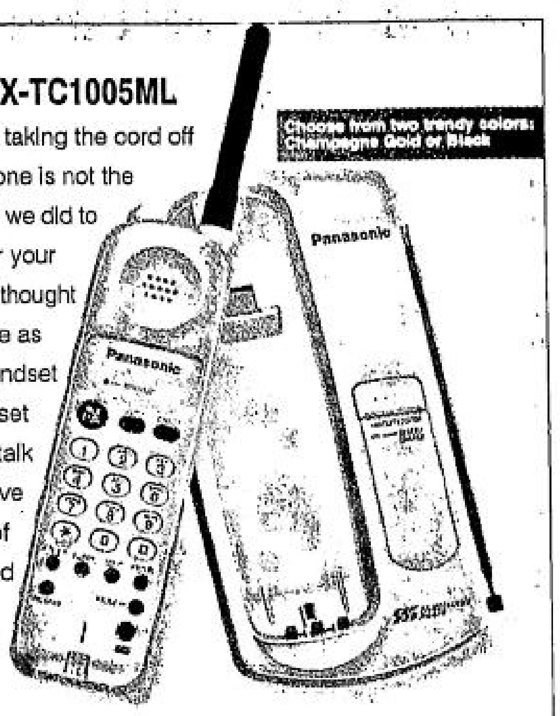
to be you • to be young • to be
5

Let's Communicate

THE PHONE THAT WALKS YOU THROUGH A CONVERSATION.

KX-TC1005ML

Now taking the cord off our phone is not the only thing we did to do more for your pleasure. We thought of convenience as well. Lighted handset keypad...a handset locator...any-key-talk that let's you receive calls at the press of any of the 12 keypad buttons. For your most engaging conversation.



Choose from two trendy colors: Champagne Gold or Black

We provide up to 30-day standby and 5 hour talk battery life. And introducing Sound Charger Plus - cutting-edge technology that filters out background noise off our cordless phone. Think of it as luxury made handy.

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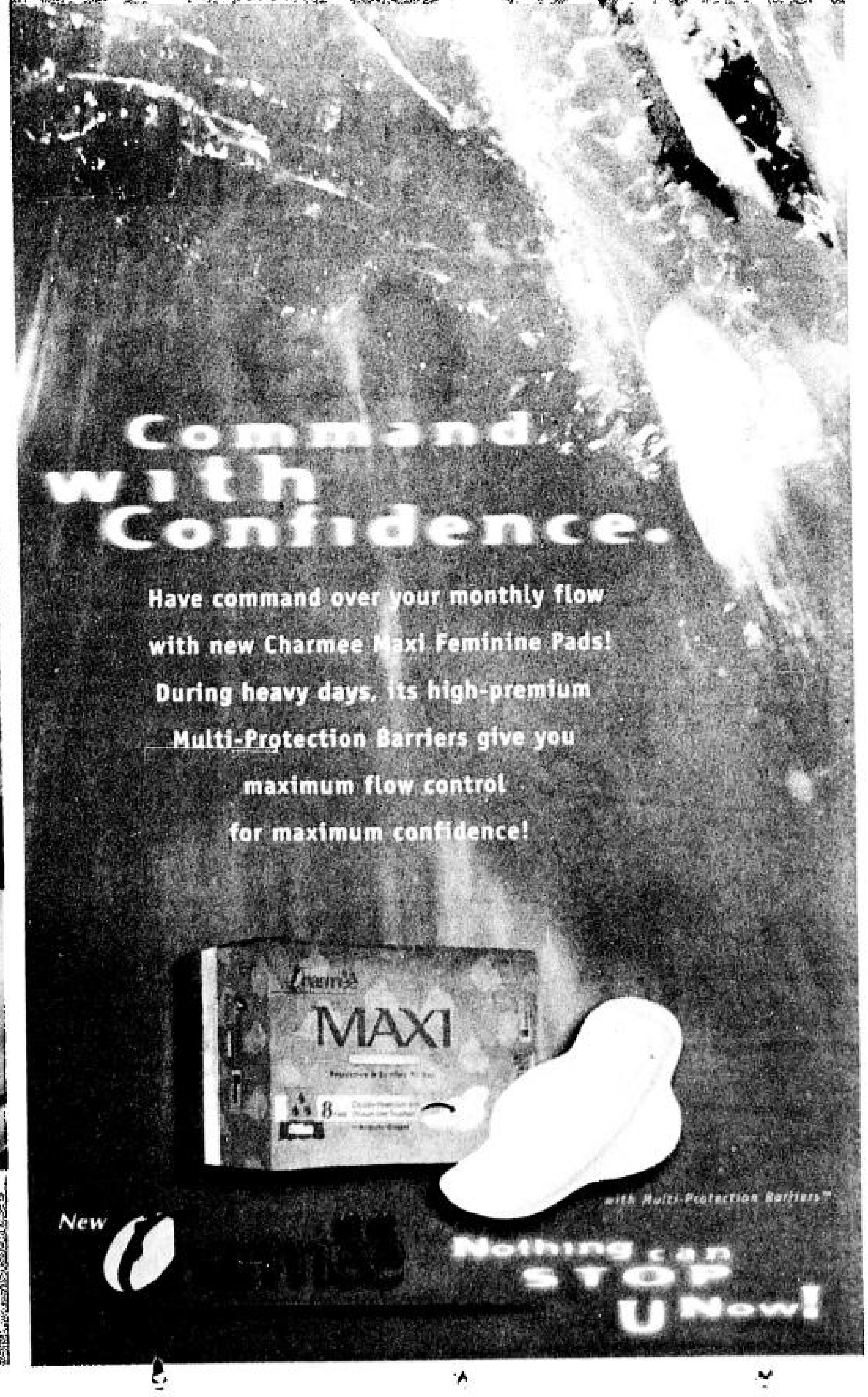


Command with Confidence.

Have command over your monthly flow with new Charmee Maxi Feminine Pads! During heavy days, its high-premium Multi-Protection Barriers give you maximum flow control for maximum confidence!

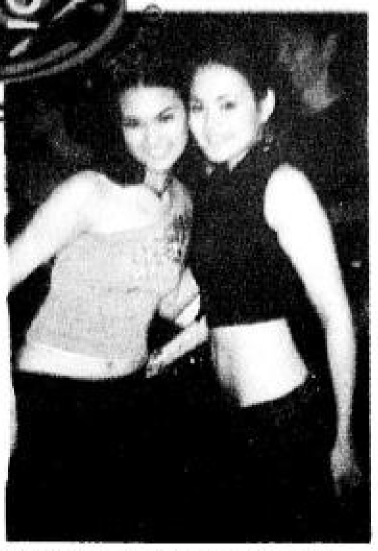
Nothing can STOP U Now!

F&H TRIO. Brian Tan, Raya Mananquil and Dean Hinkley

CHALK CHAT. Rafa Alunan and Amina Aranaz

FRINGE BENEFIT. David Kaufman and Mai Castro

FLORAL GROOVE. Juda in Gigli eyewear at Gatecrasher

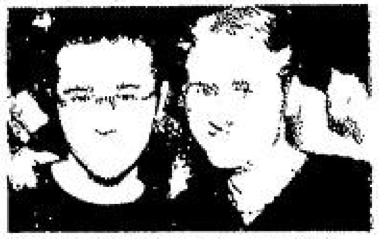

C CLASS. Verns Buckley and Anna Shier of Cal Carrie's

EYE TO EYE. Elaine Matawaran in Romeo Gigli and Faith Lavarro in Versace eyewear

Gatecrasher and the young urbanite

Tim Yap

SMART SET. Nick Wilwayco and Teddy Dario at the Tent


BUDDY BONDING. Raphael Fernandez and Marcus Bernestrom

MEGA COUPLE. Toto Labrador and Pierra Calasanz

DAWN AND DIET. Valerie Delos Santos and Alan Vianzon

SHE'S BACK! Ronald Singson and Victoria London

JUST when the weather shifts from hot to wet and back with the speed of a bullet, events, parties and hip happenings are springing every week, much to the delight of scene hungry partyphiles on the night prowl.

Of late, promoters and youth marketers have been bombarding the scene with DJ-led events. "DJs again?" some jaded folks complain. From the Folded and Hung fashion event at Venezia, I hopped onto the NBC Tent, where Smart, MTV and **Big Fish** had their Gatecrasher event. "The DJ looks like **Robert Downey Jr.**!" an excited urbanite exclaimed as smoke filled the halls of the party venue.

Party purists may mourn the sad fact that people go to these events not for the music, but for other reasons. One, that everyone else is gonna be there (or the promoter is your friend and you can't say no to him), and two, the DJ sounds foreign—either you have read his name in Mixmag or he is affiliated with some New Yawk, UK (not just London) or Ibiza club. Never mind if you are not familiar with his real body of work—his music.

But such is the attitude of the young urbanite. People go to parties to belong and savor the vibe, either alone or with their favored company. For a lot of people attending the event, this is the first time they are experiencing a particular artist's musical prowess. Plus, a really good DJ can make a music sound like it is the first time you are hearing it, even if you've heard the tracks over and over again at Orange.

That Saturday night at the Tent was another big production from the gigantic dance scene triumvirate. As such, the usual large-scale production with high-tech lights and pumping sounds ensued. Gatecrasher's music exceeded expectations, partyphiles came in full force, but something has to be said about the smoke that fills up a party place, plus the urbanites' over-polluted lungs.

Party hodgepodge

It was a refreshing change at last week's double whammy of **NBK** and **Groove Nation**'s back-to-back showdown. NBK reigned with **Ministry of Sound** at Adriatico Circle's Havana street area, while the Consortiumists held fort with **Fantastic Plastic Machine** at the new Greenbelt arena. One was hardcore house street dancing, the other an all-night chill. In the end, the scene wins. As I always say, "There's always enough for everyone."

This week, it gets even hotter. Tonight, Jack Daniel's invites you to his loft at 9 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club—a young gentlemen's quarters with billiards, darts, foozball, jenga (wow, all these weird sounding games), backgammon and other games. The band **Velchro** will jam. Wolfgang's **Wolf Gemora** will DJ from classic to modern to alternative rock, JD style.

Tomorrow, MTV Pilipinas, our own version of US MTV Video Music Awards where the best in Pinoy video making is given recognition. The next batch of superstars is usually determined from this annual awards fest. **Kyla**, **Lyle Sacris**, **Parokya ni Edgar**, **Regine Velasquez** and **Ogie Alcasid** emerged victorious last year. It is the best time for pop artists to display their designer or non-designer best. So watch out for that.

Friday, as part of the "French Spring in Manila 2002," Soirée DJ, a techno dance party, takes place at the Fort with Alliance Francaise, Marithe and François Girbaud and Air France. Witness French DJs give their own version of joie de vivre!

Saturday, learn how to groove with "Nike Beyond Borders," which features Nike's new apparel. The event, which happens at the Rockwell Play Underground, will have four workshop camps—"String Science," a guitar camp, which has **8 of Cheese** and **Francis** of **The Dawn** as gurus. "Urban Vibe Chemistry" will have **DJ Decipher** and **DJ Caliph8**, while **DJ Cyril** of Groove Nation highlights "House 101." "Principles of Beat—drum and percussion classes from **Mark** of **Rivermaya**, **Paul** of **Spy** and **Rio** of **Third World Project**." At 9 p.m., there'll be a fashion show featuring the latest Presto line and 5x5 apparel. Rivermaya and **Sandwich** will play at the concert.

To celebrate Smart's "7 million subscriber" mark, dancers and models from Ibiza, Spain, will be here next Tuesday, where a big, hot shebang happens at the Fort, with no less than **Dave Seaman** behind the tracks. **Martin Nievera** and a host of other talents highlight the concert at the Fort grounds. "This party is going to be from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.!" exclaims Smart's **Julie Carceller**.

Now if that's not happening, I don't know what is.

LAYERED for both hot and wet seasons in this F&H ensemble

X-FILES. Sten Tillberg, Adrian Day, brothers Shaun and Brian Nelson at the Gatecrasher event at the NBC Tent

TRIPLE TREAT. Atom Henares, Nadja Cross and Antonio Reyes at Venezia

GROOVE IT, BABY! Edge Pamute of Studio 23 at Greenbelt

STYLE file Bianca Valerio at Venezia

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

TIT FOR TAT. Smart's David Tuppen is also F&H endorser.

His GF's gay friend pulls the strings in their relationship

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

My girl and I are having a problem—a big one. We have encountered several problems, but this one is different. My girl has a gay friend and she always thinks of him, because even before we started our relationship, he has always said something that makes her weak. She always thinks that she's a traitor because of the things that he tells her. I don't know what to do. I'm afraid that we will eventually break up because of him. What will I do?

McCOY

If you have to grab your girlfriend by the shoulders and shake her a bit to put some sense into her head, please do. But gently, of course. Is she five years old or something? I'm a female myself, and I can understand the necessity of having a wise gay friend who can guide us in our dealings with men. But to actually make a gay friend be the third person in a relationship that is supposed to be only for two, is just ridiculous and immature. And it would not be wrong if you told your girlfriend that.

You don't have to be brutal with your girl in telling her how you feel about her friend pulling the strings in your relationship. I'm just saying that you stop walking on eggshells around this particular problem (because that seems to be what you have been doing), and bring it out into the open. When you and your girlfriend get to talking about it, be firm with what you want. What do you really want, anyway? I know that you can't get rid of the gay friend. That's an impossible mission.

Maybe what you can do is to deliver an ultimatum: the next time she does her little guilt trip about being a traitor again, you're going to confront her friend. Or stop talking to her altogether. She desperately needs a lesson on independent thinking. As her boyfriend, I believe it is your duty to help her learn.

Sep

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

On one hand, I say dump the floosie, and I don't mean the queen, either. On the other hand, there is something to be said about independent women. Letters recently submitted to the Chatroom have led me to believe that women aren't taking a pro-active role in finding the right man. Here is a girl who, unlike the rest of the lot, actually stays emotionally untouchable, and who considers more than the usual number of opinions.

What's wrong with that? We all need advice once in a while, right? Why not from someone who can give you the male and female perspective?

I have read that the ratio of women to girls in this world is 1:5, and although I think I have been very lucky, I can't say the same for the women. I adore a playful partner, but nothing compares to a woman who is mature when it matters. And taking advice from a close friend is always a good thing when entering a serious relationship. I know I'm going to get rapped on the head for this, but you can't expect girls to make the right decision all the time. She needs all the help she can get. A girl and her gay adviser are just like a blind man and his eye dog. It's weird but it works. I would dare say that across the great gender divide, a man's best adviser is a woman, but men aren't smart enough to value the implications of a platonic partnership.

But here we have a girl who has her priorities straight. She obviously believes in the gay wonder and his guiding words. To be fair, the pink panther just might have more wisdom than you two put together, anyway. That it affects the relationship isn't bad. That you end up in the cross hairs is just too bad, McCoy.

You are on the outside, dude, on the fast track to recycling factory. Before it comes to delivering ultimatum, you should start realizing who holds the cards. If you don't like having to pay your respects to the bigwigs, then quit while you're behind. McCoy, you have to remember: Keep your friends close, keep your enemies closer. Politics is not only for politicians. We assert ourselves; we appeal to others' sense of morality, propriety, and logic to convince them. The only way to get on your girlfriend's good side is by identifying your biggest, fruitiest enemy, and making him your ally.

McCaloy

E-mail at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Foundation brands that mask skin's imperfections

Make Over 911

Kinny Salas

THESE featured products are for you if you fit the following profile: Does your foundation...1. Always make you look too "done up" like you are wearing a mask? 2. Has a formula that settles into fine lines or clumps up on minor skin blemishes? 3. Look perfect in person but makes your skin tone look uneven in pictures or on video? 4. Do you have sensitive, normal to dry or combination skin with imperfections at most? Read on!

I wanted these questions out of the way because I am reviewing the new wave of foundation that is beyond just being sheer. For those with excessively oily, acne-prone and very mature skin that needs plumping, these products are not for you. Those with normal to oily complexions can only wear them in cooler weather and topped with loose powder. There are three brands with this specific formulation that has come to my attention.

My skin condition during road test: minor blemishes (some whiteheads and blackheads) on T-zone, visible pores on side of nose, and smooth cheeks but with visible capillaries. Random red splotches on base of nose and forehead.

Prescriptives Traceless Skin Responsive Tint (P1,800)—It goes on light and silky, and actually feels cool to the touch. All it took were my fingers to blend it in, and any color was gone in a flash. I looked like I was fresh from the shower and my skin looked scrubbed clean. My pores were visibly reduced, blackheads invisible, whiteheads less obvious, and all totally disappeared after loose powder was applied. The red splotches were toned down and my skin looked very even. The only drawback was that my T-zone was shiny within the minute of application. This product has light diffusing properties, which reflects light and camouflages imperfections. It's perfect for pictures and video. Comes in five almost-invisible shades.

Max Factor Seamless Foundation—This got my attention because it has been featured in InStyle magazine as the favorite of celebrities such as Sarah Jessica Parker. It won the reader's choice for best inexpensive foundation for InStyle, and Allure magazine, too. I only tried a sample from the US. It has slightly more color than Prescriptives but it disappears into the skin just as easily. It is easier to find a matching shade, as the finish is so sheer. Whereas Prescriptives felt like a child's watercolor, this had more moisture and pigment. Skin feels like a light moisturizer was applied, as it was soft and silky. Minor imperfections were covered but there was some settling on my pores, perhaps because it was too oily for that area. My red discoloration was toned down but still visible. Finishing it off with loose powder perfected the look, but my T-zone got shiny and my cheeks soon followed. I had to retouch with pressed powder often during the day.

L'Oreal Air Wear Long-Wearing Liquid (P660)—This actually does not specify that it is sheer, as L'Oreal has Feel Naturelle and Translucide for that. I included this in the selection because the finish for me is very sheer. It has the most coverage among the three, and has SPF 14. It has a long-wearing formula that glides right on and blends in. I also used my fingers to apply it. Its extra but still sheer coverage left no sticky residue like the first two, and feels light on the skin. My minor imperfections were masked and it took me longer to shine. The effect was a sheer matte and when oil shone through, I looked dewy and fresh. The possible drawback for those with skin that is perfectly balanced or sensitive with minor imperfections, is that this last one may still look like you obviously have foundation. Traceless and/or Seamless are better for you.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805.

How to survive Palawan

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

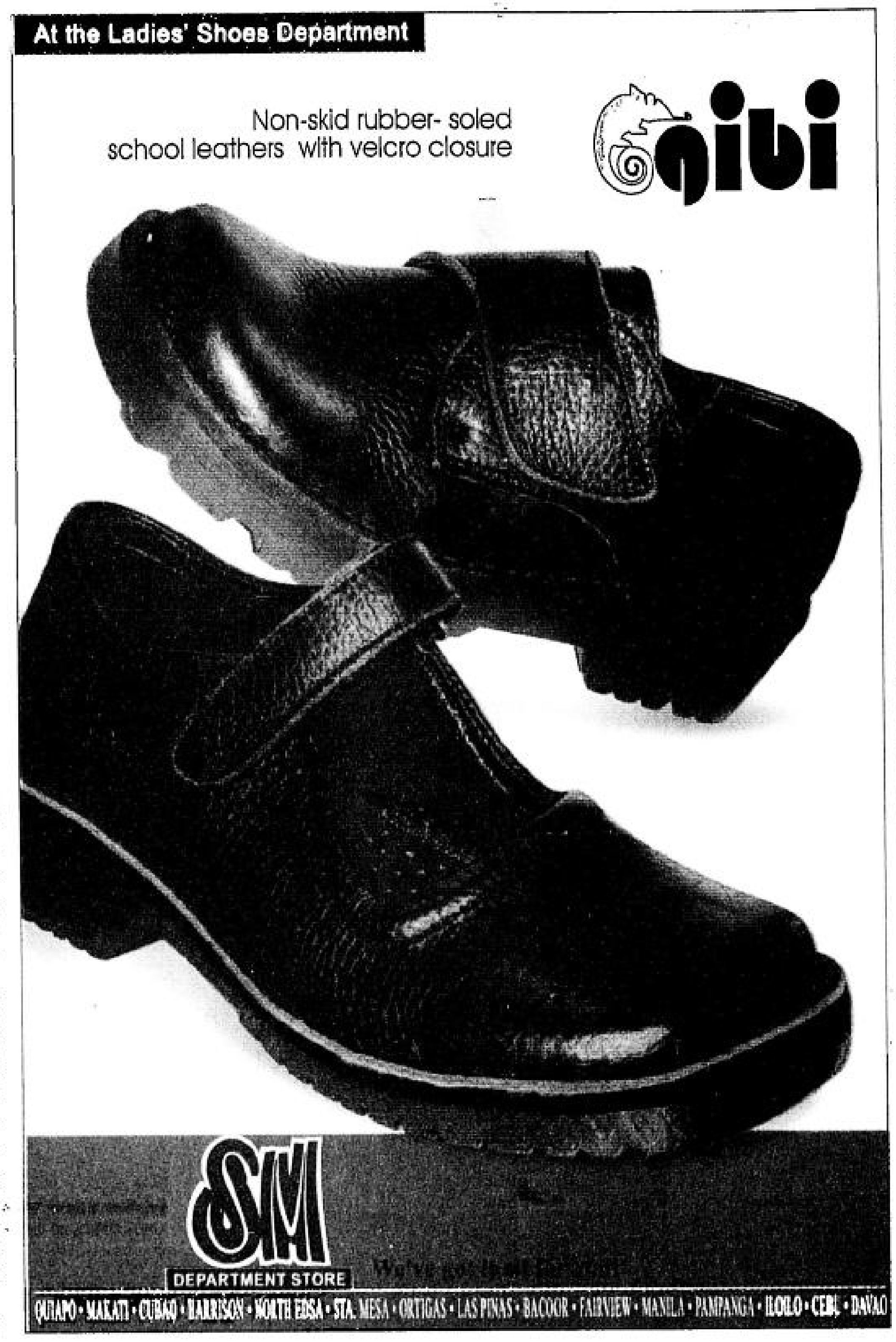
By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

EVERY place has its own tales. And we gathered good stories after our trip to Palawan. But, I bet you want to hear more than just the stories. You may want to hear the do's and don'ts, the must-haves and must not, the what and what not, and the can and cannot. 2bU! shares its best memories to guide you on your visit to Palawan.

Bring mosquito repellants. There are mosquitoes, which carry cerebral malaria that attacks brain cells. Even if the tour guide insists that the mangrove ecosystem is malaria-free, don't forget to bring mosquito repellants.

Don't forget your first-aid kit. Bring also Bonamine or Attapulgites because the road is really nerve-wracking. You may experience headaches and stomachaches because most roads are underdeveloped. But accessible roads are now being developed.

HOW/ p.C7


At the Ladies' Shoes Department
Non-skid rubber- soled school leathers with velcro closure
gibi
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
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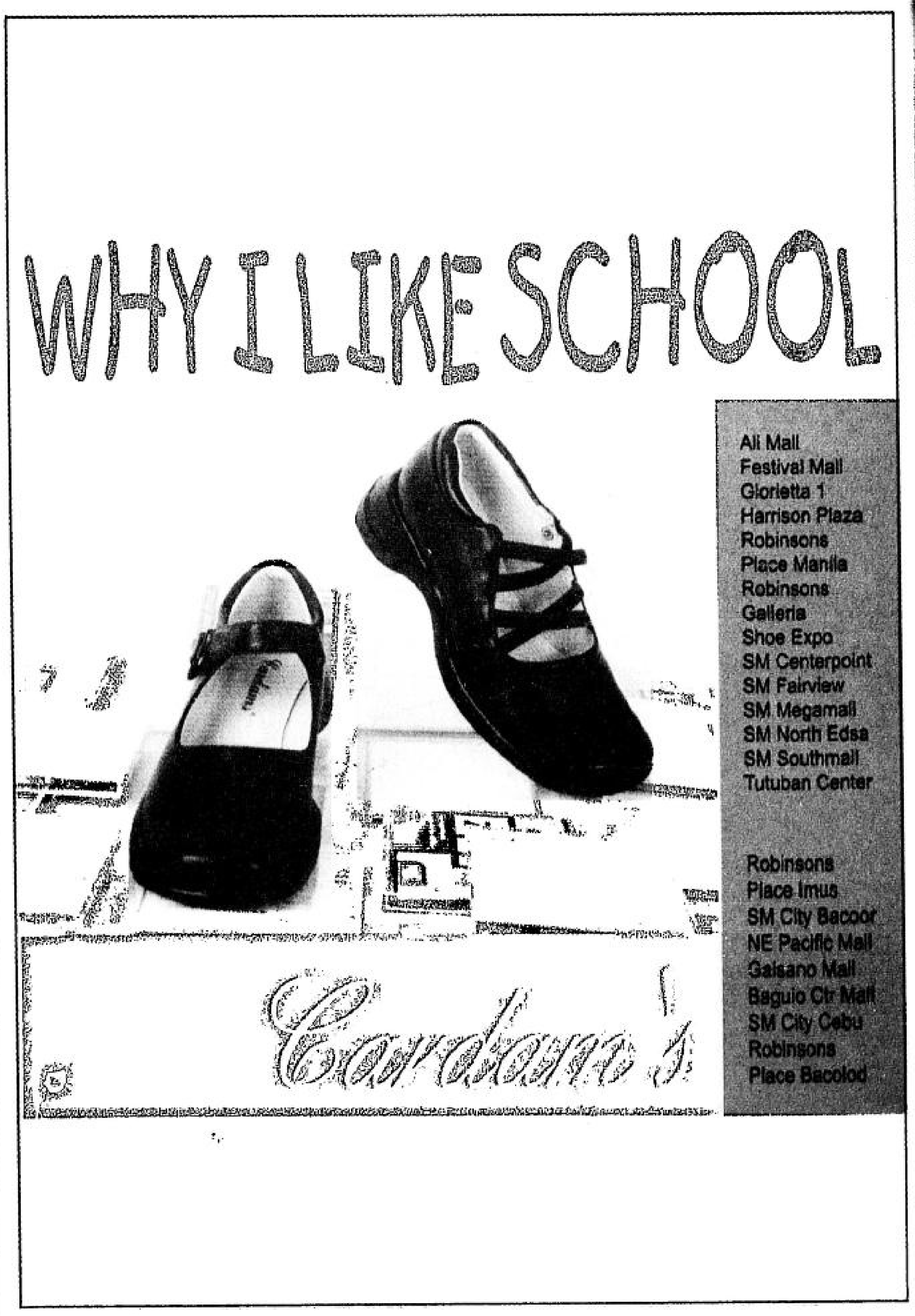
WHY I LIKE SCHOOL
Cardam's
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Festival Mall
Glorietta 1
Harrison Plaza
Robinsons Place Manila
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Shoe Expo
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SM Fairview
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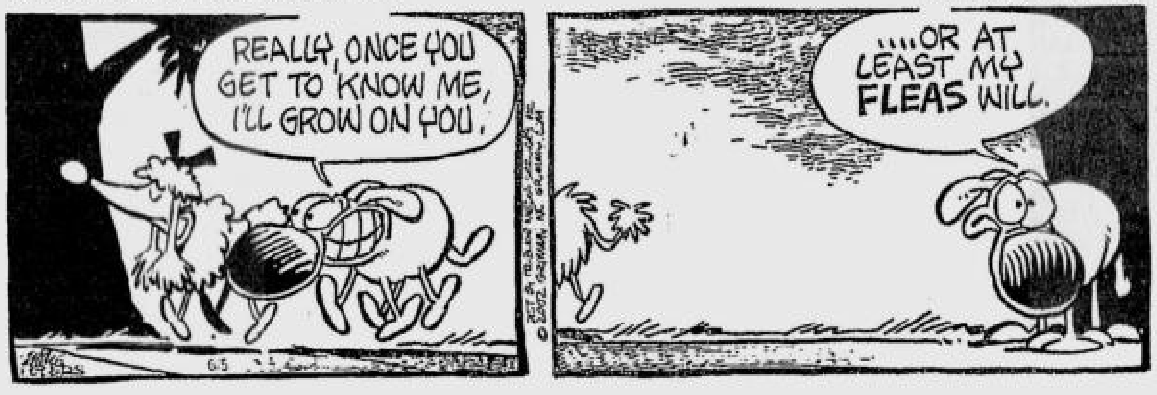
Take Control.
You're in control over your monthly flow with new Charmee Regular Feminine Pads! During light days, its high-premium Multi-Protection Barriers give you maximum flow control day in, day out!
New Charmee
Nothing can STOP U Now!

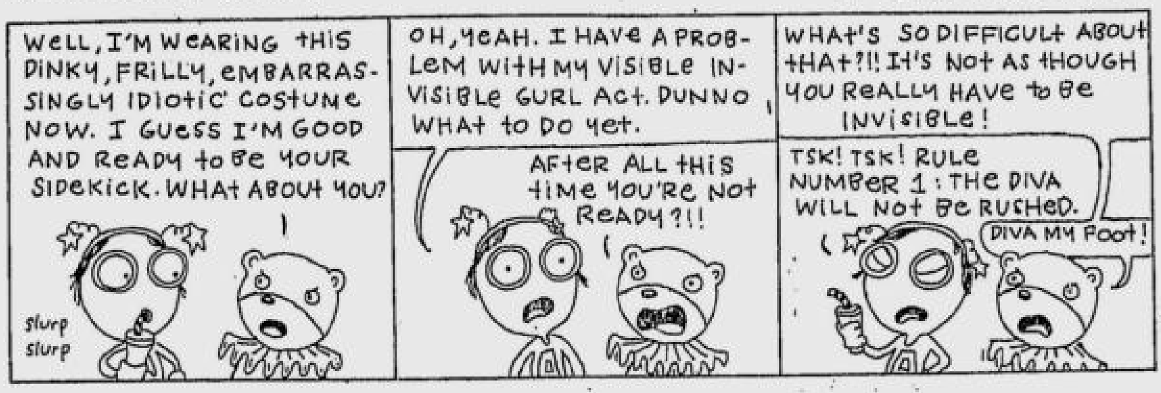
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


REALLY, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW ME, I'LL GROW ON YOU.
....OR AT LEAST MY FLEAS WILL.
6-5

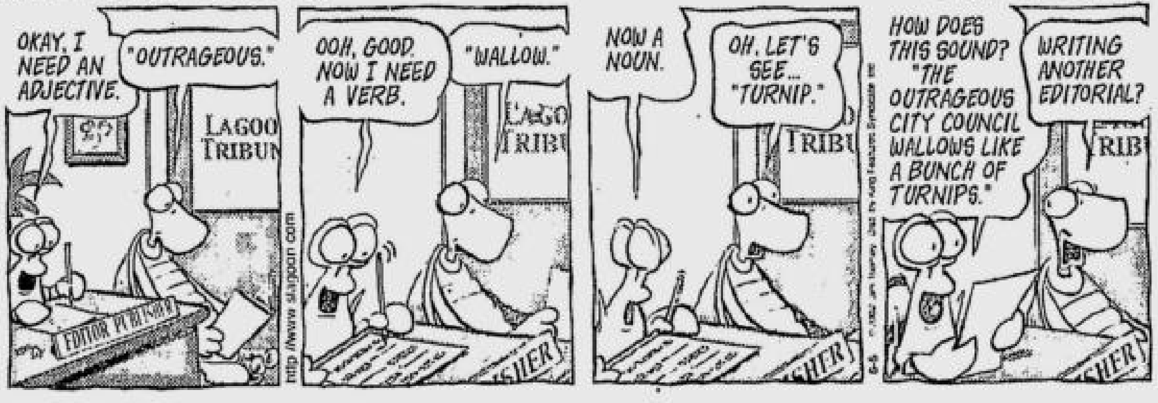
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, I'M WEARING THIS DINKY, FRILLY, EMBARRASSINGLY IDIOTIC COSTUME NOW. I GUESS I'M GOOD AND READY TO BE YOUR SIDEKICK. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
slurp slurp
OH, YEAH. I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY VISIBLE INVISIBLE GURL ACT. DUNNO WHAT TO DO YET.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT READY?!!
WHAT'S SO DIFFICULT ABOUT THAT?!! IT'S NOT AS THOUGH YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE INVISIBLE!
TSK! TSK! RULE NUMBER 1: THE DIVA WILL NOT BE RUSHED.
DIVA MY FOOT!

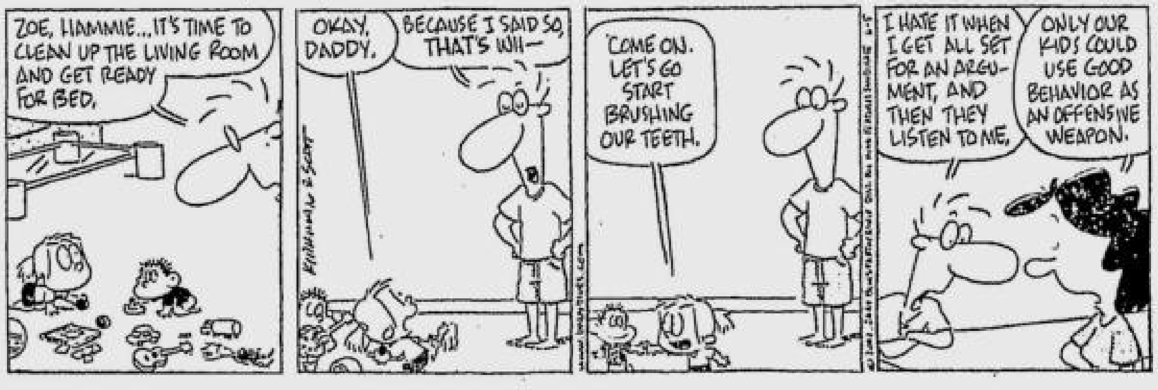
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, I NEED AN ADJECTIVE.
"OUTRAGEOUS."
LAGOON TRIBUNE
EDITOR IN CHIEF
OOH, GOOD. NOW I NEED A VERB.
"WALLOW."
NOW A NOUN.
OH, LET'S SEE... "TURNIP."
HOW DOES THIS SOUND? "THE OUTRAGEOUS CITY COUNCIL WALLOWS LIKE A BUNCH OF TURNIPS."
WRITING ANOTHER EDITORIAL?
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, HAMMIE... IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP THE LIVING ROOM AND GET READY FOR BED.
OKAY, DADDY.
BECAUSE I SAID SO, THAT'S WH—
COME ON. LET'S GO START BRUSHING OUR TEETH.
I HATE IT WHEN I GET ALL SET FOR AN ARGUMENT, AND THEN THEY LISTEN TO ME.
ONLY OUR KIDS COULD USE GOOD BEHAVIOR AS AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ken Follett, Kenny G, Rosalind Russell, Chad Allen

Happy Birthday: Social activities will be plentiful this year. You will have a greater concern with the younger people in your life. This is not the year to take financial risks. You will be creative and unique, well liked and entertaining this year. You will want to work hard in order to improve yourself. Your numbers are 3, 19, 27, 33, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your overzealous attitude create problems for you today. You can make positive changes to yourself if you direct your energy into self-improvements.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't settle for anything less than what you want today. Avoid any secretive activities as well as gossip. You have to look out for yourself and refrain from covering for others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your involvement in organizations that are of an intellectual nature could cost you financially. Try not to overspend to impress others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you work with may try to get the better of you. Keep your cool and do the best job possible. Keep your ideas and your intentions to yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a vacation. Start planning; a change will be as good as a rest. Your outlook will improve if you start to hang out with people who can contribute something new and interesting to your conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Legal matters may be on your mind today. Try to deal with such issues quickly and efficiently. Don't let anyone talk you into getting involved in a risky joint venture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Partnerships will be of utmost importance to you today. Much can be resolved if you are open about the way you feel. Make changes if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be concerned about your health and being the best that you can be today. Check out different products that will help you build a stronger physique. Proper diet and exercise will help you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Socializing with friends or colleagues will be entertaining and informative. Your peers will look up to you if you plan the events today. You are an endless source of information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your attitude is changing rapidly and you have probably taken on way too much. This could result in your making a hasty decision that you'll regret. Tread carefully and avoid disputes.

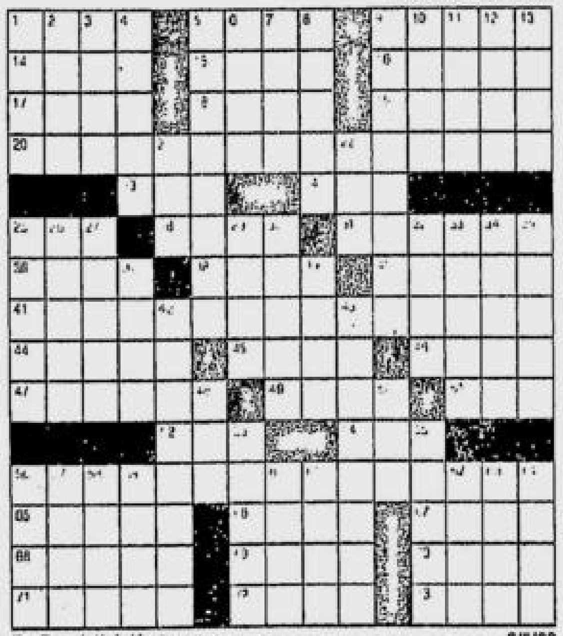
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You must get out and do things with friends. Your interest in human nature and what makes people tick will lead to all sorts of interesting conversation. You will find yourself, arousing interest in others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may find yourself reminiscing about your childhood. Remembering things from your past will help you make decisions and get ahead. Prepare to do whatever is necessary in order to get positive results.

Birthday Baby: You will always be searching for the truth. Most will consider you to be a free thinker. You will have great curiosity about different cultures and religions, and you will look into several different belief systems during your lifetime.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



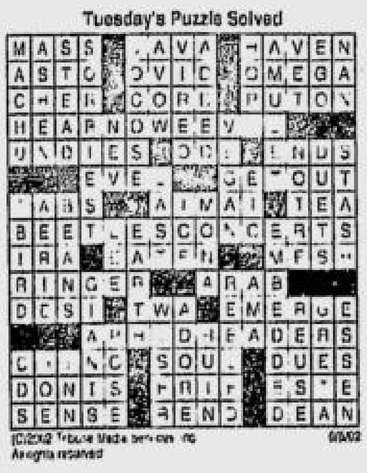
By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA

6/5/02

ACROSS
1 Freebie
5 Places
9 Bolshevik secret police
14 State positively
15 Golf hazard
16 Captive of Paris
17 Chief element
18 Singer Coolidge
19 "Interiors" director
20 Smack Indy 500 buddies?
23 Stitch up
24 Actor Wallach
25 CIA forerunner
28 Home of Iowa State
31 Put forward
36 Birthday food
38 First of the pot
40 Distance runner
41 Bagnold and Ferber do lunch?
44 Mr. T's outfit
45 Palm starch
46 Blues singer James
47 'Spirit in the Sky' singer Greenbaum
49 Late night Jay
51 __ your heart out!
52 Mister turkey
54 Flock member
56 Embarrassed Las Vegas salesman?
65 French farewell
66 Nephrite
67 Nonsense
68 Stopwatch
69 Portent
70 Microwave, e.g.
71 'Pushin' Too Hard' band
72 Tenant's expense
73 New Haven school

DOWN
1 Hacks
2 Egg-shaped
3 Flat-topped hill
4 Makes ready, briefly
5 Paper tiger
6 Guitarist Clapton
7 London gallery
8 Parking spot
9 Personal magnetism
10 Assistance
11 Fitzgerald of scat
12 Bow-stern link
13 Solhern and Miller
21 FDR group
22 Miss. neighbor
25 Indian, for one
26 __ Domingo
27 Tomei or Kiley
29 Concludes
30 Make off with
32 Aspect
33 Privileged few
34 Oscar de la __
35 Pick up the tab
37 Dutch cheese
39 Upper hand
42 Dabblers
43 Anticlimactic occurrence
48 Election mo.
50 Be in debt
53 Paramount
55 Relish
56 Blast it!
57 McClurg or Adams
58 FDR coin
59 Require
60 Baronet's wife
61 Arabian gulf
62 Opera star
63 Daredevil Knievel
64 Philosopher Descartes

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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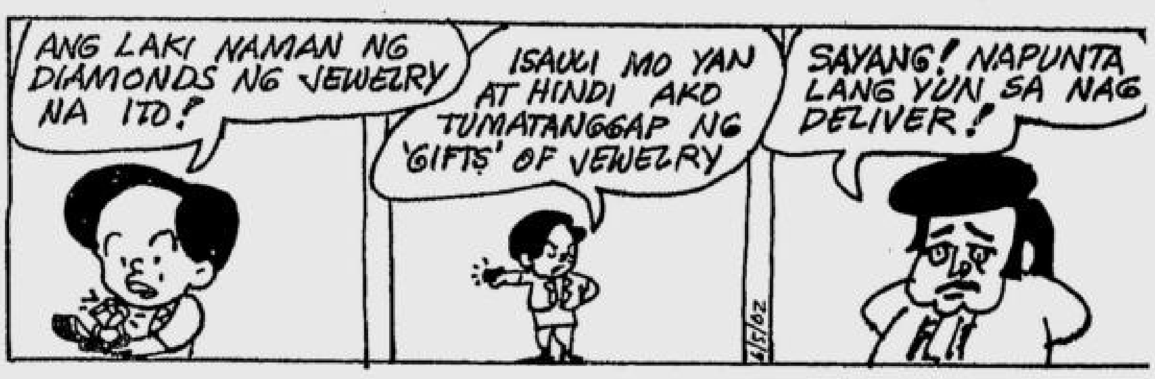
6/5/02

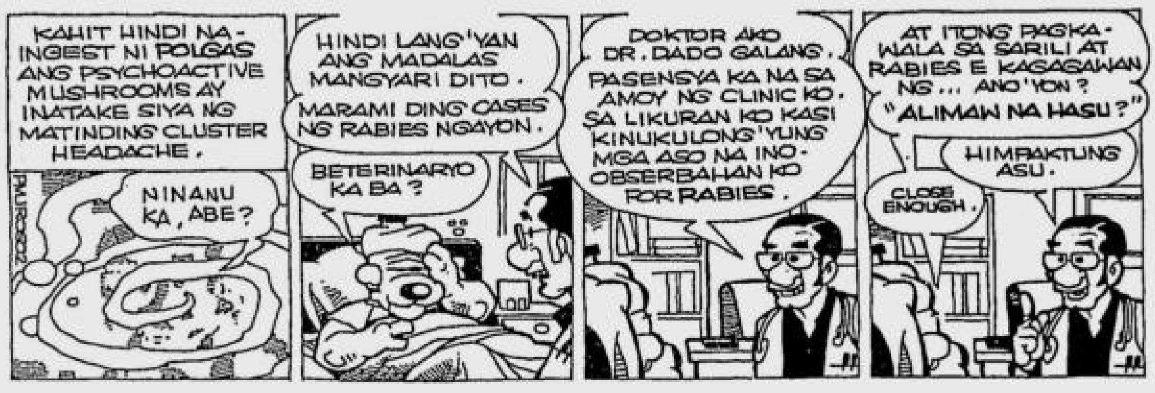
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG LAKI NAMAN NG DIAMONDS NG JEWELRY NA ITO!
ISAULI MO YAN AT HINDI AKO TUMATANGGAP NG 'GIFTS' OF JEWELRY
SAYANG! NAPUNTA LANG YUN SA NAG DELIVER!
6/5/02

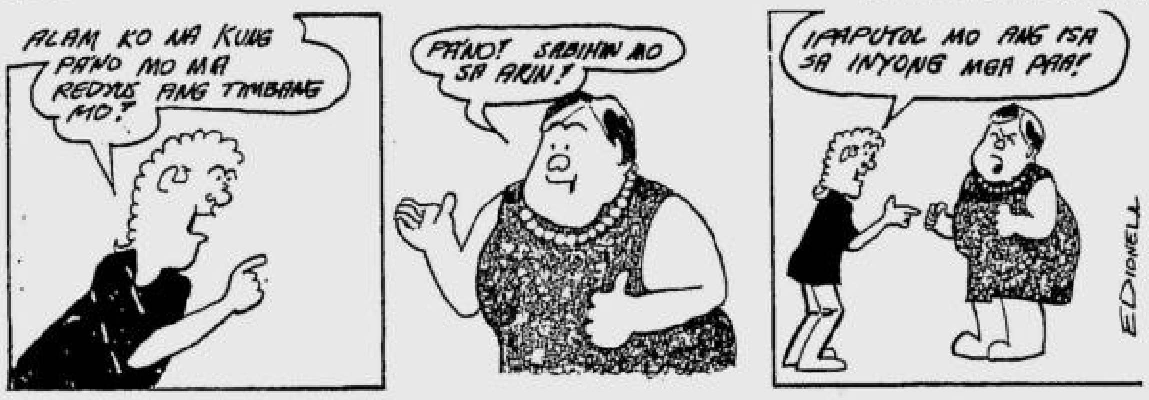
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAHIT HINDI NA-INGEST NI POLGAS ANG PSYCHOACTIVE MUSHROOMS AY INATAKE SIYA NG MATINDING CLUSTER HEADACHE.
NINANU KA, ABE?
HINDI LANG 'YAN ANG MADALAS MANGYARI DITO.
MARAMI DING CASES NG RABIES NGAYON.
BETERINARYO KA BA?
DOKTOR AKO DR. DADO GALANG.
PASENSYA KA NA SA AMOY NG CLINIC KO. SA LIKURAN KO KASI KINUKULONG 'YUNG MGA ASO NA INO-OBSERBAHAN KO FOR RABIES.
AT ITONG PAGKA-WALA SA SARILI AT RABIES E KAGAGAWAN NG... ANO 'YON? "ALIMAW NA HASU?"
HIMPAKTUNG ASU.
CLOSE ENOUGH.

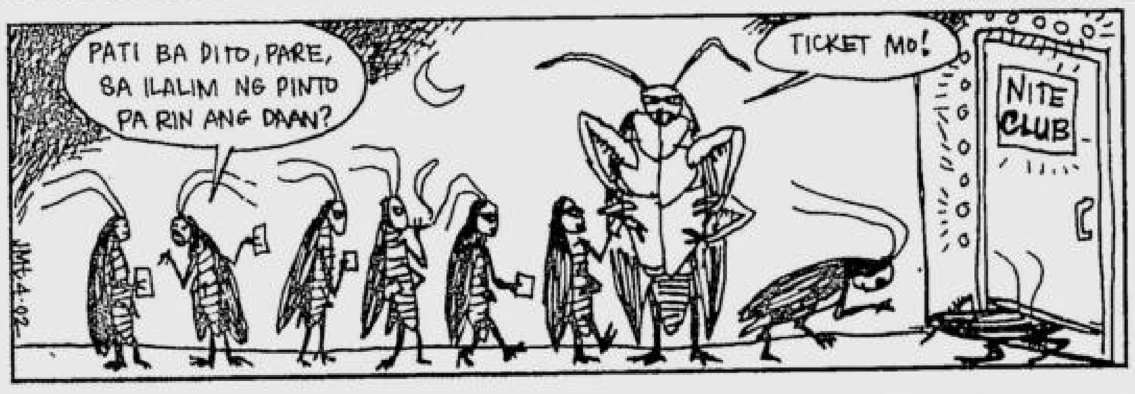
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ALAM KO NA KUNG PA'NO MO MA REDYUS ANG TIMBANG MO?
PA'NO! SABIHIN MO SA AKIN!
IPAPUTOL MO ANG ISA SA INYONG MGA PAA!
EDIONELA

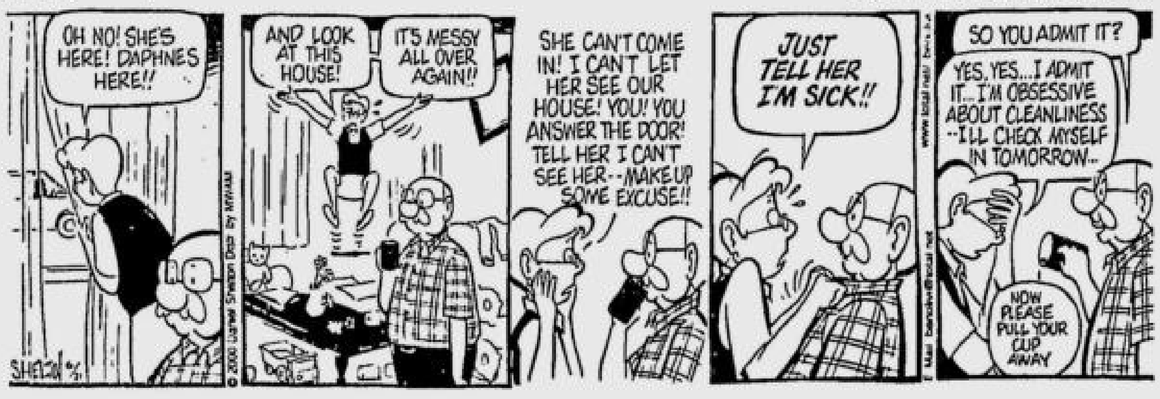
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PATI BA DITO, PARE, SA ILALIM NG PINTO PA RIN ANG DAAN?
TICKET MO!
NITE CLUB
JMT 4-02

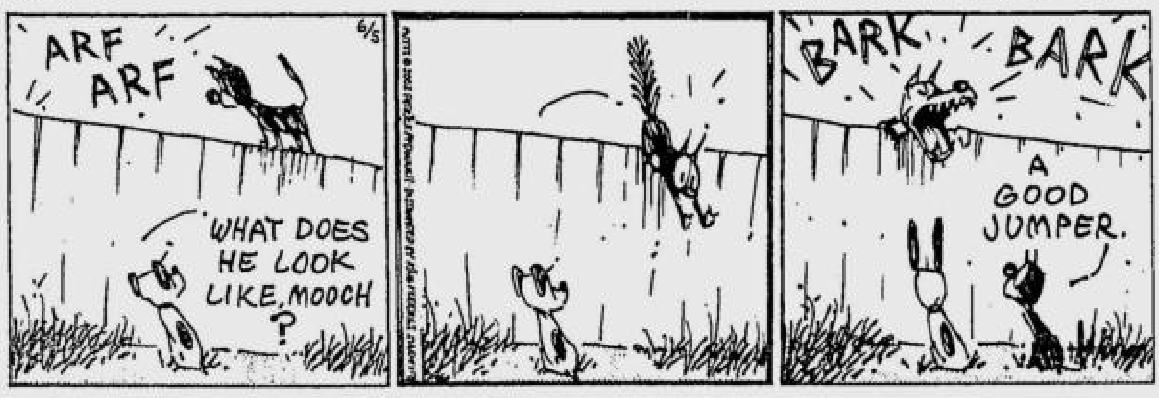
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH NO! SHE'S HERE! DAPHNES HERE!!
AND LOOK AT THIS HOUSE!
IT'S MESSY ALL OVER AGAIN!!
SHE CAN'T COME IN! I CAN'T LET HER SEE OUR HOUSE! YOU! YOU ANSWER THE DOOR! TELL HER I CAN'T SEE HER--MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE!!
JUST TELL HER I'M SICK!!
SO YOU ADMIT IT?
YES, YES... I ADMIT IT... I'M OBSESSIVE ABOUT CLEANLINESS --I'LL CHECK MYSELF IN TOMORROW...
NOW PLEASE PULL YOUR CUP AWAY

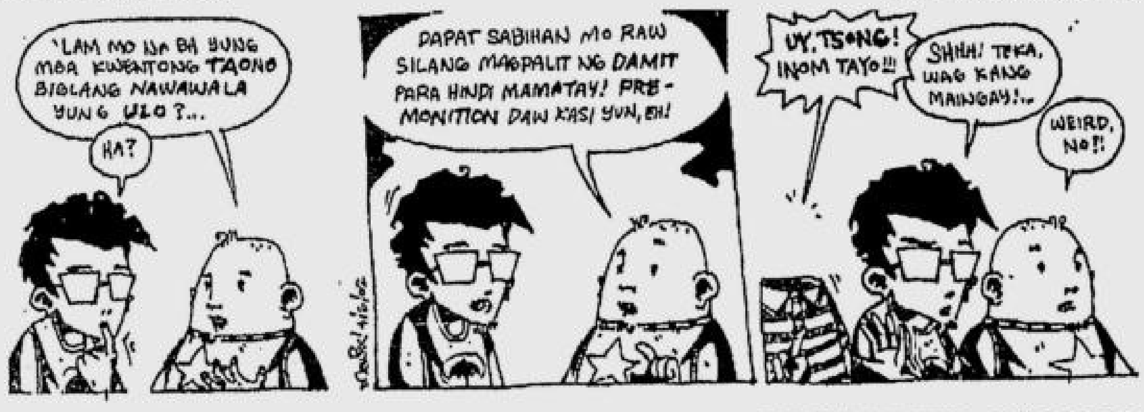
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ARF ARF
WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE, MOOCH?
6/5
BARK BARK
A GOOD JUMPER.

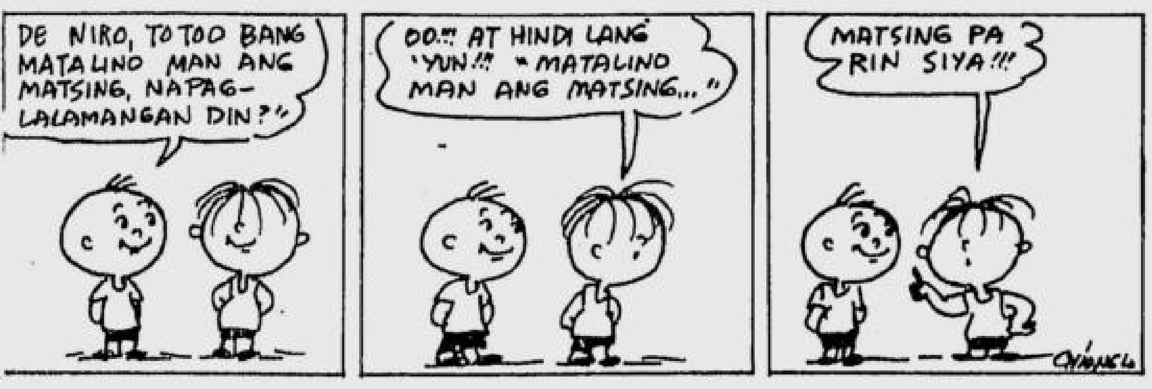
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'LAM MO BA BA YUNG MGA KWENTONG TAONG BIGLANG NAWAWALA YUNG ULO?...
HA?
DAPAT SABIHAN MO RAW SILANG MAGPALIT NG DAMIT PARA HINDI MAMATAY! PRE-MONITION DAW KASI YUN, EH!
UY, TSONG! INOM TAYO!!!
SHHH! TEKA, WAG KANG MAINGAY!..
WEIRD, NO?!

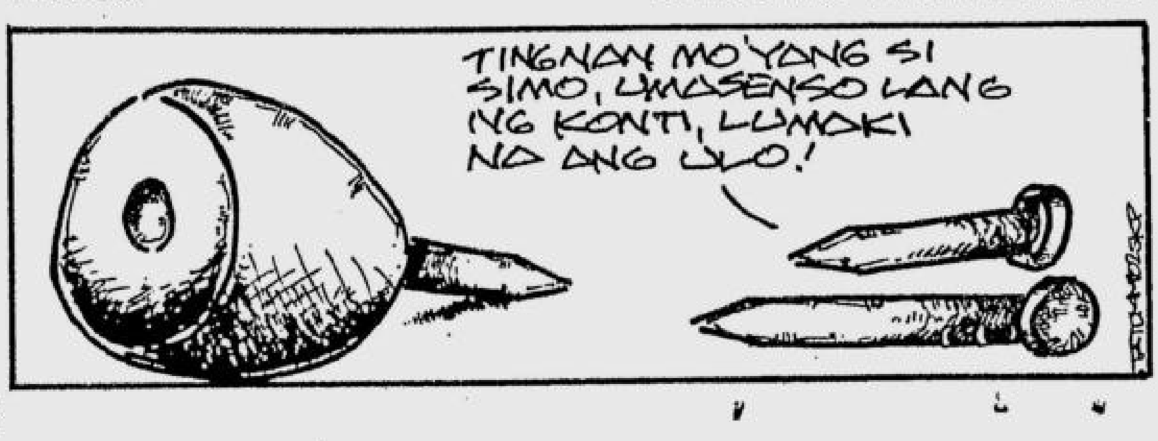
LOVEKNOTS

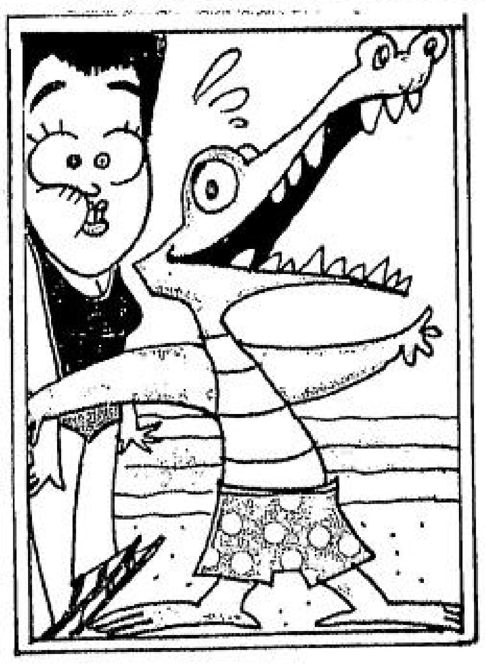
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, TOTOO BANG "MATALINO MAN ANG MATSING, NAPAGLALAMANGAN DIN?"
OO!!! AT HINDI LANG 'YUN!!! "MATALINO MAN ANG MATSING..."
MATSING PA RIN SIYA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TINGNAN MO'YONG SI SIMO, UMASENSO LANG NG KONTI, LUMAKI NA ANG ULO!



How to survive Palawan

From page C5

Carry books. If you're a bookworm and you're looking for a perfect place to read books, Palawan is the place to go to. But you don't have to spend all your time reading, for Palawan has so much to offer.

Don't look for eye candy. Palawan is not as funky as Boracay where bars, including hunks and babes, flourish (at least not those where we went to). But don't stuff your luggage with many outfits for night-out, you'll regret it.

Last-minute shopping. Don't avoid souvenir shops near the airport. Contrary to common belief, the goods there are not expensive. We found fish magnets, bamboo chimes, rain sticks, scarves with tribal prints, a massager that said "Palawan" and bracelets with bug resins. You name it, they have it.

Enjoy a tricycle ride. The tricycles are very unique. Its body is colorful and larger than those found in Manila.

Pig out in your hotel room. This may be the perfect time to be a food critic and check what food on the menu would drive your taste buds wild. You can do this while watching a movie on cable TV (you're lucky if you have more than enough to channel surf). In our case, "Radyo" completed our pigging out session. Thanks to Rufa Mae Quinto's hilarious character.

Skinny-dipping. Hotel Flueris' pools are installed with changing lights. Their transformation from one color to another is very dramatic. That makes it a perfect venue for pictorials. Be ready with your camera, 40 shots may not be enough. You may do this before going to bed to burn the extra calories after pigging out in your room.

Go to Dos Palmas. The place is very peaceful (well, maybe because we hardly saw any people), but it is also a great place to kayak and snorkel. It is also a good place to go shopping. No Rico Yan or terrorist jokes at Dos Palmas. You don't want to scare the tourists away, including yourself. Thinking of the Abu Sayyaf will just ruin your drive to visit a lot of islands.

Go photograph the animals. The crocs won't bite unless you jump over their fences, although they can show you how dangerous they really are when they snap their jaws. The monkeys could be shrewd but it's still nice to take pictures with them especially those with babies. Be friendly to the *bayawak* (monitor lizards). They seem scary but are really nice giant lizards. Don't be scared of the animals; we humans are bigger and more dangerous than they can ever be. Most urban alligators aren't caged.

Don't take pictures inside the underground river. Unless you are a professional photographer, you may want to leave taking pictures inside the underground river to your photographer or whoever is gifted with photography (hello Sir Jones!) The place could be really dark and you won't see anything unless the person in charge of the emergency light focuses it to your desired spot. "*Sa kanan? Hindi, sa kaliwa po. Pakitaas pa po. Dito? Hindi po, taas pa po.*" Forget about it. You don't only avoid taking amateur shots, you may want to avoid looking up unless you want to taste bat piss.

Don't drink too much liquid. Traveling from one place to another takes time. Public toilets are kilometers apart. Feel lucky if you come across an open public toilet because if ever there would be one, it's either still undergoing construction or it's not yet open for public use even though it's already functional.

Bring a lot of chips.

Follow the anti-littering law. Puerto Princesa (or Palawan for that matter) is the cleanest city. It's really strict when it comes to cleanliness so carry a trash bag every time you go from one place to another.

Bring your fave SPF lotion. If you hate getting a tan, bring SPF 50. But if you want to get a tan, bring SPF 4, which can give you the perfect tan. When island-hopping, apply a 45. The boat's shade is not enough to cover eight passengers.

Bring a hat or bandanna. If you want to have a bad hair day, fine, you may drop this idea. But if you don't, a bandanna is useful if you feel like your hair is about to look like Macy Gray's. You don't want anybody asking you, *"Mahangin ba sa labas?"* The hat can also prevent tanning your face.

Always wear a smile. People are generally friendly, so always wear a smile!

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@edsamail.com.ph

Enchanted Kingdom

This summer, there's more than one way to celebrate!

In fact, there are 7. That's because we're bringing you 7 different tickets to get you into Enchanted Kingdom on our 7th year. So that means 7 different ways to make your summer a truly magical one.

Ride-All-You-Can Ticket
Gives the ultimate thrill-seeker unlimited access to all rides for just ₱400. Plus, free Pepsi.

Wizard Money
Pay ₱200 to enter and get the ₱200 back in Wizard Money to spend as you wish. Plus, you can get unlimited rides in the Grand Carousel. It's like getting into the Park for free!*

Super Saver Ticket
This ticket is perfect for the less daring park visitor. It gives you unlimited riding privileges to 10 of our more subdued rides for only ₱250. Plus, free Knotts Berry dessert.

Jollibee-EK Ticket Bundle
This specially priced Ride-All ticket includes a Jollibee meal redeemable at the Park for only ₱400.**

Subway-EK Ticket Bundle
Gives you a Ride-All Ticket and a food coupon redeemable at the Subway outlet at EK for just ₱400.***

EK Special Ticket
At ₱100, this specially priced entrance ticket gives you unlimited rides to the Grand Carousel.

Pasyal Pinoy Ticket
Includes bus fare from the Ayala Center Terminal to EK and back plus a Ride-All Ticket. Costs only ₱410 on weekdays and ₱490 on weekends.

It's seven times the fun. So, bring the entire family!

*Per DTI-Laguna Permit # 01-020, Series of 2002.
**The Jollibee-EK Ticket Bundle is valid until June 16, 2002 and is available at selected Jollibee outlets. For inquiries, please call 634-1111. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4404, Series of 2001.
***The EK-Subway Ticket Bundle is valid until June 23, 2002 and is available at selected Subway outlets. For inquiries, please call 924-2434. Per DTI-Laguna Permit # 04-099, Series of 2002.
For other inquiries, call Enchanted Kingdom at 830-2111 to 17 or 843-6075 to 78.

PEPSI
Knott's
Jollibee
SUBWAY eat fresh.
HOLIDAYS

Be Empowered.
OVERNIGHT
with Multi-Protection Barriers
New Charmee
Nothing can STOP U Now!

You've got power over your monthly flow with new Charmee Overnight Feminine Pads! While you sleep, its high-premium Multi-Protection Barriers give you maximum flow control all through the night!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Warmest felicitations to Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc. on your inauguration of Luntiang Pilipinas National Seedling Bank and the launching of the Green Crusaders National Advocacy Network.

I commend you for your invaluable commitment in promoting a clean and green environment. Your forestry program and encouragement to Green Crusaders are much needed participatory approaches in caring for the environment. Volunteerism is a powerful force we have to nurture to sustain the enthusiasm and dynamism needed in long-term environmental protection and enhancement programs.

I am heartened to know that you are dedicated in your role as stakeholders of the environment. As we celebrate World Environment Day, I call on everyone to intensify the collective efforts in caring for the environment. Let us all work together on the road to economic recovery and sustainable development.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

World Environment Day is an occasion to pause and reflect on the state of the environment. This year's theme, "Give Earth A Chance", urges us to look at our daily impact on the planet and its peoples, and to take action to improve our environmental behaviour.

We have been taking huge steps forward to "globalize". Globalization has opened up the world, and benefited the world, or at least one-half of the world. The other half still live on less than two dollars a day, and will probably never enjoy a glass of clean water. We have to find a way to make globalization work for everyone and not just a few.

The globalization process must focus on human, cultural, and spiritual dimensions, and on the interdependence of humankind, and its diversity. We have to (re)develop an ecological, holistic world view and connect, once again, with the rest of nature.

We urgently need environmental ethics for the twenty-first century, based on equity, fairness and respect for nature. These values can be drawn from ancient cultures, indigenous beliefs and all world religions.

On this World Environment Day let us all begin to act for the environment and work together to give Earth a chance. An unpolluted, pristine environment is vital to our survival, a precious resource, which will only endure if we "Give Earth A Chance".

Prof. Klaus Toepfer
Executive Director

Trees get a treat with Luntiang Pilipinas' Green Crusaders.

Trees. They offer shelter, clean air to breathe and they even inspire literary greats to create poems about its beauty. Such is the importance of one tree that environmentalists rally around it as if their lives depended on it. And this is the reason why a movement has been launched to help protect it. Christened Green Crusaders, this is a program launched by Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste, who is the founder of Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc. and United Nations' Environmental Program Awardee. It aims to empower its members to become active agents for environmental protection by means of forestry programs promoted nationwide. The Green Crusaders membership is divided into four categories representing the four elements of nature, namely: Earth, which is open to students and individuals; Water, open to professionals from age 25-above; Fire, for NGO's, NGA's, LGU's and PO's; and Air, which is open to those in the corporate & private sector. The launch of Green Crusaders coincides with the celebration of the World Environment Day, to be held in Shenzhen, China. The summit revolves around the theme, "Give Earth A Chance" and is in conjunction with the local launch of Green Crusaders on June 5. On the same date, an array of activities to culminate World Environment Day is in the offing, which includes the launch of Green Crusaders at the Westin Philippine Plaza and the formal inauguration of the Luntiang Pilipinas National Seedling Bank in Calamba, Laguna.

With Green Crusaders, people who share the same passion in advocating for the preservation of trees and protection of the environment can have a venue to fulfill what they've always longed for a greener Philippines.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

More than one million trees have been planted in approximately 500 hectares across the country visible in 33 provinces, 28 cities, and 84 municipalities made possible through the assistance of over 240 institutional partners including 28 corporate donors and benefactors, 22 national government agencies, 21 non-government organizations (NGOs), 22 educational institutions, two international/foreign entities, and countless individuals backed up by a well planned education, information, and communication (EIC) campaign with the primary aim of raising the level of consciousness of Filipinos to the value of trees with an established Luntiang Pilipinas National Seedling Bank in Silangan, Calamba, Laguna which has a capacity to propagate more than one million seedlings of various tree species annually.

A JOINT PROJECT OF:
Philip Morris Philippines Inc.
LUNTIANG PILIPINAS

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

I share the pride, joy and zeal of the international community and of the Filipino people as we celebrate the World Environment Day. This is yet another occasion where we, as one body, can make all the nations aware of the great importance of the environment and the need to immediately act to protect and preserve it.

In celebration of this momentous event, Luntiang Pilipinas has once again embarked on significant endeavors in line with our crusade in protecting the environment with the inauguration of its National Seedling Bank and the official launching of the Green Crusaders National Advocacy Network.

The Luntiang Pilipinas National Seedling Bank was established through the invaluable assistance of the Philippine National Construction Corp. and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry. It shall house more than one million seeds and seedlings of various forest tree species to be planted in different parts of the country.

The National Advocacy Network of Luntiang Pilipinas will be the hub of environment enthusiasts especially those coming from the youth sector. This corps of Green Crusaders will be empowered to become active agents for sustainable development.

With these programs, I believe we will be able to continually conquer the challenge of revitalizing our environment. I am confident that with the responsible participation of the stakeholders in this campaign, we shall soon again enjoy Earth's bounty.

Let us work together for the promotion of a sustainable Green Philippines. Let us create a healthy environment and save millions of lives.

Happy World Environment Day! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Loren
SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Founder and Honorary Chair

PROGRAM

PART I (9:00 am - 10:05 am)

INAUGURATION OF LUNTIANG PILIPINAS NATIONAL SEEDLING BANK
Silangan (SB), South Luzon Expressway, Calamba, Laguna

INVOCATION
Vice Mayor Porcino Uruga
Calamba City

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME REMARKS
Mayor Severino Lajara
Calamba City

INSPIRATIONAL TALK
Rep. Joaquin Chipeco
2nd District, Laguna

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER
Gov. Teresita Lazaro
Province of Laguna

SPEECH OF SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Founder & Chair, Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc.

SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
PNCC, BPI, LP

CEREMONIAL TURNOVER OF PLANTING MATERIALS
Dir. Blo Umpar adiong
Bureau of Plant Industry

CLOSING REMARKS
Atty. Luis F. Sison
Chairman and CEO, PNCC

RIBBON CUTTING AND TOUR OF FACILITY

REFRESHMENTS

MR. ANGELITO M. VILLANUEVA, MA, MNSA
Executive Director, Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc.
Master of Ceremonies

PART II (6:00 pm - 6:15 pm)

INAUGURATION OF THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA FOREST PARK
Central Entrance Garden, The Westin Philippine Plaza

UNVEILING OF THE FOREST PARK MARKER

PRESENTATION OF MEMENTO

CEREMONIAL TREE PLANTING

PART III (6:15 pm - 7:30 pm)

OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE LUNTIANG PILIPINAS NATIONAL ADVOCACY NETWORK
Mindanao Ballroom, The Westin Philippine Plaza

INVOCATION

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME REMARKS
Mr. Shane K. Cunning
General Manager, The Westin Philippine Plaza

INTERMISSION

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER
MR. ANGELITO M. VILLANUEVA, MA, MNSA
Executive Director, Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc.

SPEECH OF SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Founder & Chair, Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc.

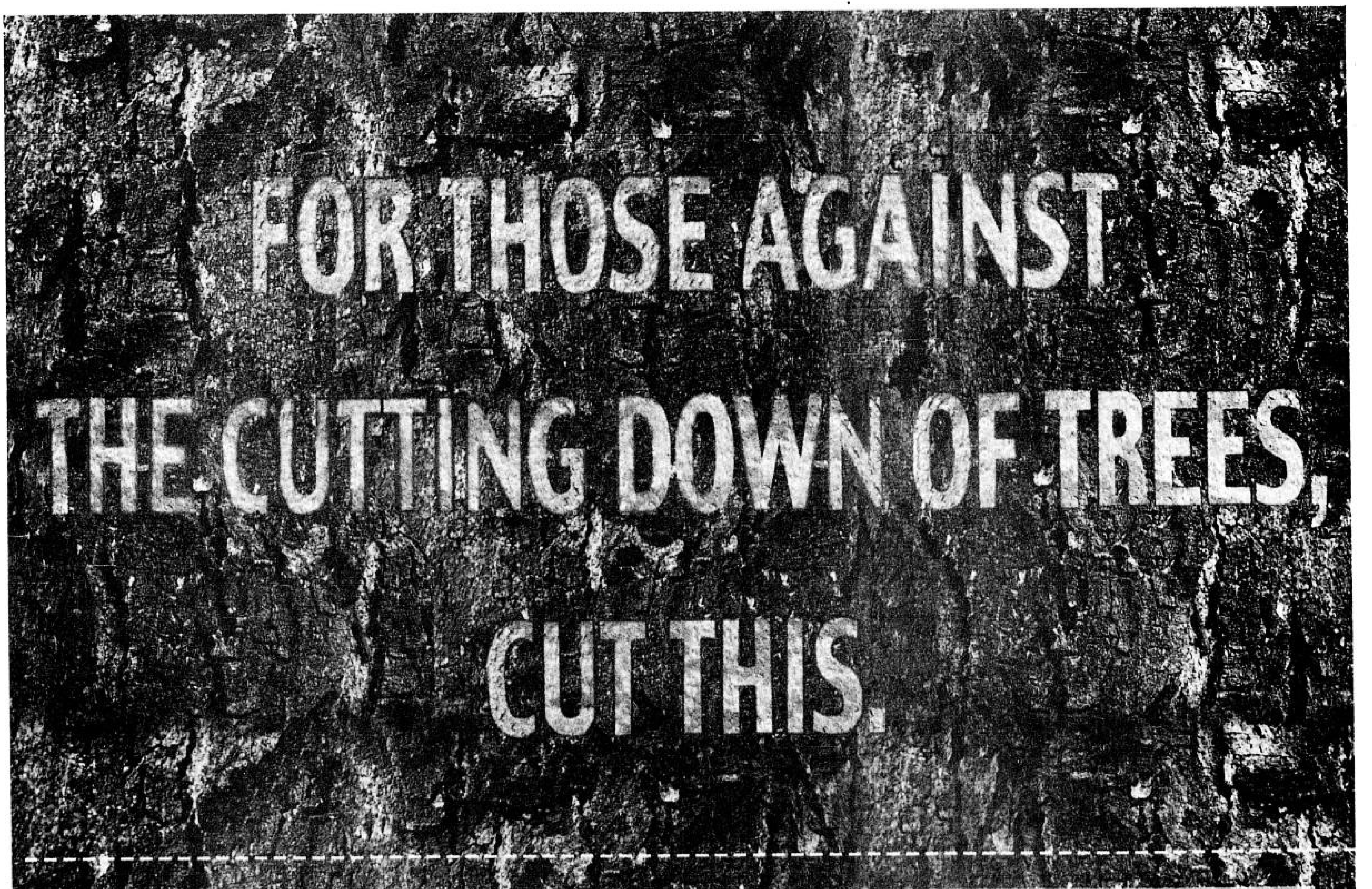
CEREMONIAL ISSUANCE OF GREEN CRUSADERS ADVOCACY CARDS

PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT

SIGNING OF MANIFESTO OF COMMITMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE GREEN PHILIPPINES
By organizers from different sectors

COCKTAILS

MR. JULIUS BABAO & MS. TINTIN BERSOLA
Masters of Ceremonies

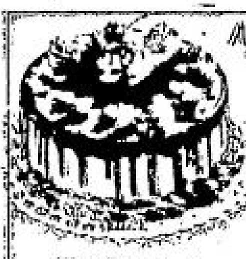


A joint project of:
Philip Morris Philippines Inc

If you think you're cut out to be an environmental advocate, join Luntiang Pilipinas' Green Crusaders and take part in urban forestry programs around the country. By being a Green Crusader, you can make a difference in preserving and protecting the environment.

NAME: ______ NICKNAME: ______
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: ______
HOME PHONE: ______ MOBILE NO.: ______ E-MAIL ADDRESS: ______
AGE: ______ PLACE OF BIRTH: ______ NATIONALITY: ______ CIVIL STATUS: ______ SEX: ______
OCCUPATION: ______ COMPANY: ______ OFFICE NO.: ______
OFFICE ADDRESS: ______

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL THE LUNTIANG PILIPINAS SECRETARIAT AT 8928640/8928698 OR LOG ON TO www.luntiangpilipinas.org



Ngayong Father's Day, dapat may cake para sa breadwinner.

Goldilocks
How thoughtful, How Goldilocks.

The Goldilocks Chocolate Symphony Cake

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Give this island a chance

STORY ON PAGE D3

DOS PALMAS. People have called this resort many names, others even recommend they change their name. Still, it stands proud amid the chaos.

PHOTO: JONES CAMPOS

SACRED HEART SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1956
PRE-SCHOOL

Hurry! Limited Slots Available!!

- Toddler (1.6 - 2.5 yrs. old)
- Jr. Nursery (2.6 - 3.5 yrs. old)
- Sr. Nursery (3.6 - 4.5 yrs. old)
- Kindergarten (4.6 - 5.5 yrs. old)
- Preparatory (5.6 - 6 yrs. old)

CALL OR VISIT US TODAY!!

MALABON
#18 Mango Rd.
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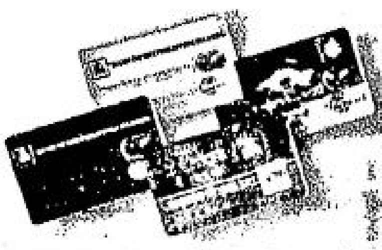

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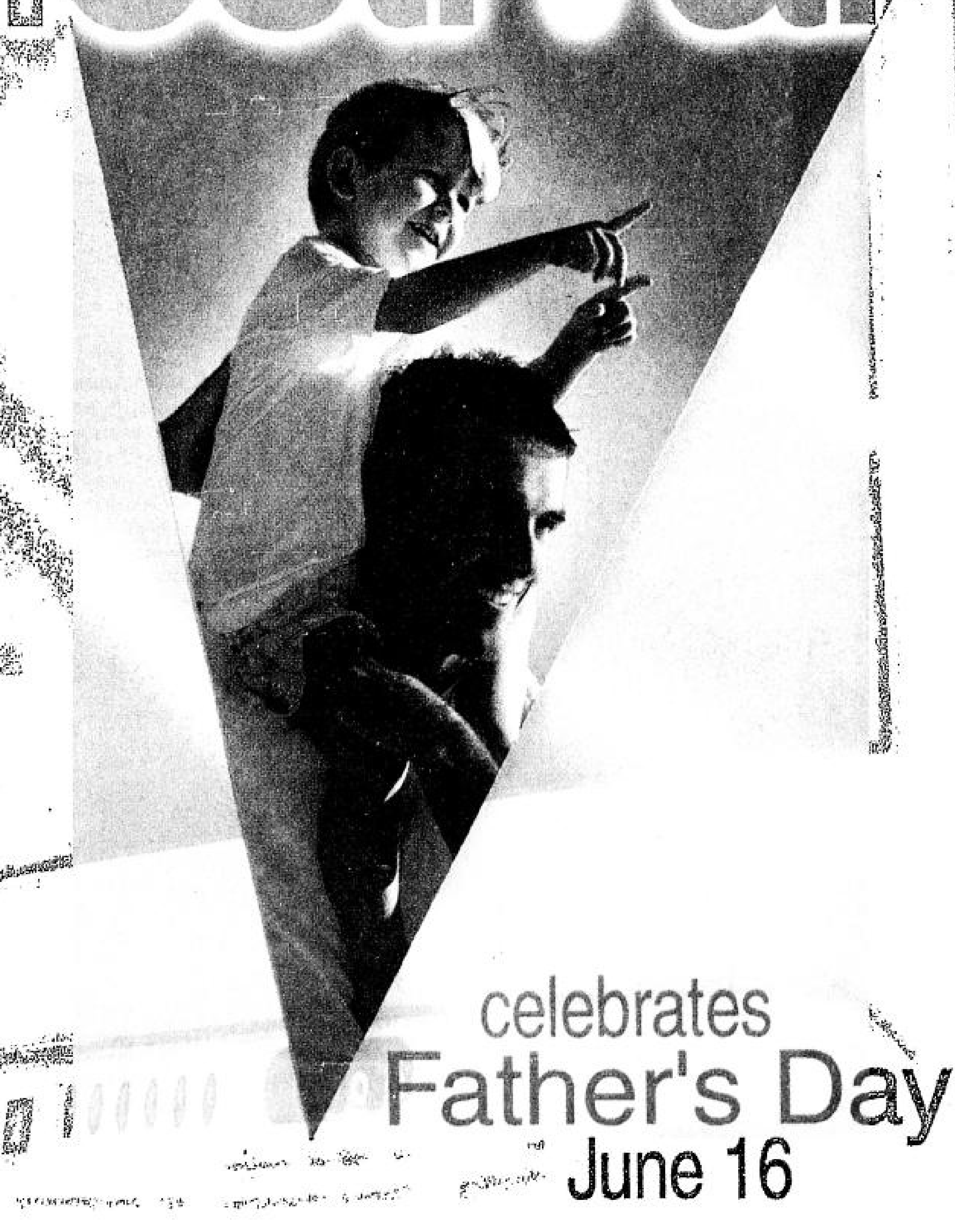

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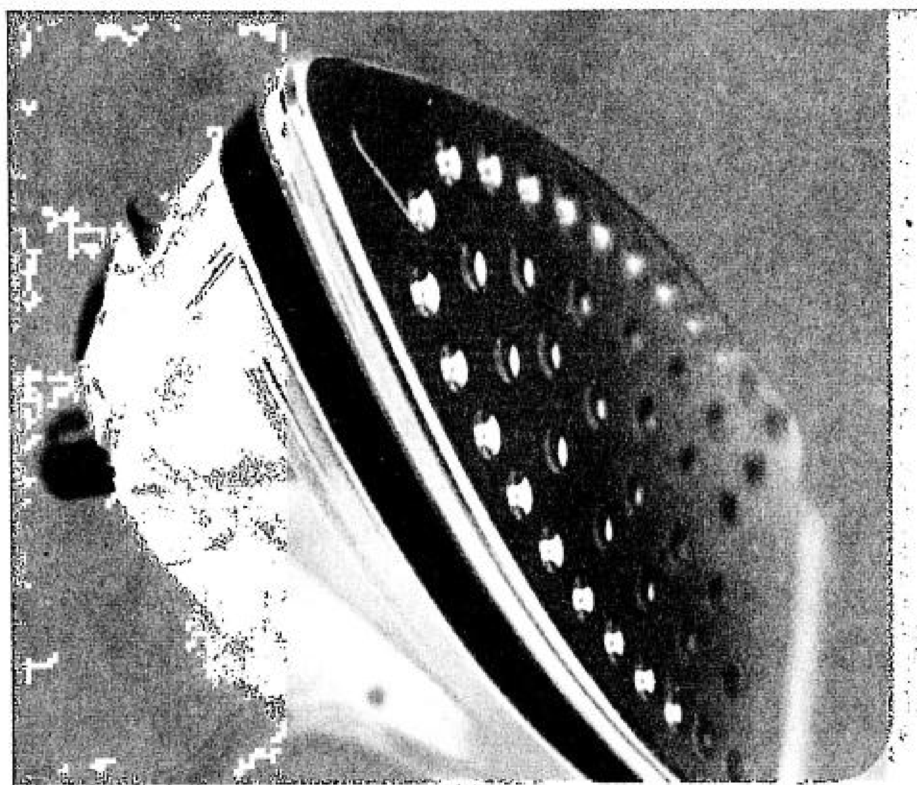
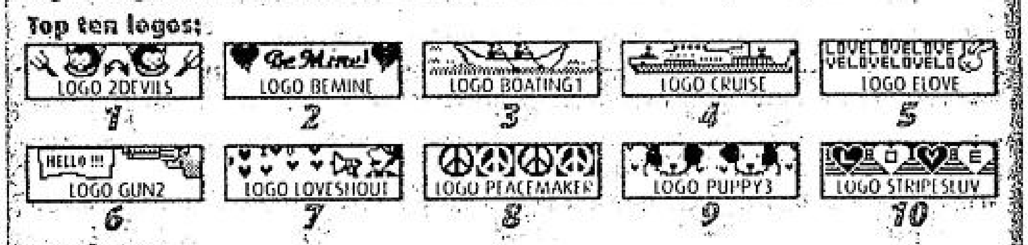


zed

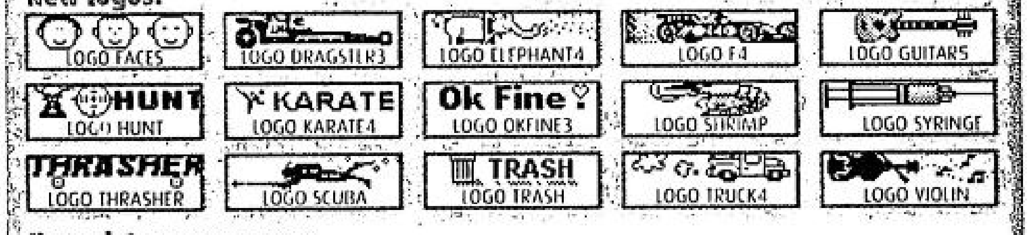
Hot off the press.

They're the hottest things since fire was discovered. Download these sizzling logos, ring tones and picture messages from the week of May 29 to June 3.

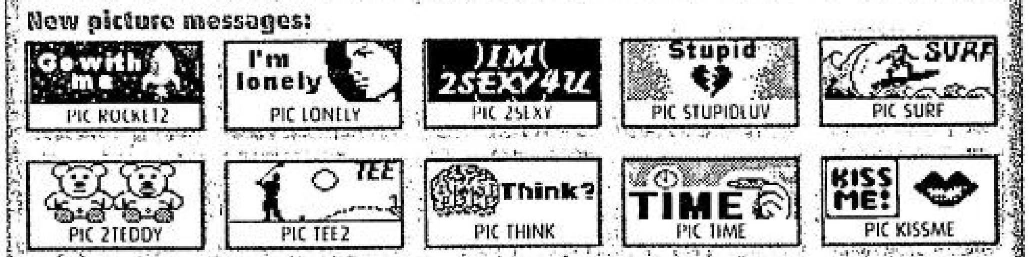
Top ten logos:


LOGO 2DEVILS
1
Be Mine!
LOGO BEMINE
2
LOGO BOATING1
3
LOGO CRUISE
4
LOVELOVELOVE
LOGO ELOVE
5
HELLO !!!
LOGO GUN2
6
LOGO LOVESHOUT
7
LOGO PEACEMAKER
8
LOGO PUPPY3
9
LOGO STRIPESLUV
10

New logos:


LOGO FACES
LOGO DRAGSTER3
LOGO ELEPHANT4
LOGO F4
LOGO GUITARS
HUNT
LOGO HUNT
KARATE
LOGO KARATE4
Ok Fine
LOGO OKFINE3
LOGO SHRIMP
LOGO SYRINGE
THRASHER
LOGO THRASHER
LOGO SCUBA
TRASH
LOGO TRASH
LOGO TRUCK4
LOGO VIOLIN

New picture messages:


Go with me
PIC ROCKET2
I'm lonely
PIC LONELY
)IM(2SEXY4U
PIC 2SEXY
Stupid
PIC STUPIDLUV
SURF
PIC SURF
PIC 2TEDDY
TEE
PIC TEE2
Think?
PIC THINK
TIME
PIC TIME
KISS ME!
PIC KISSME

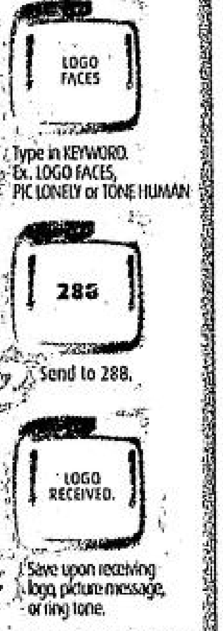
New ring tones:

Is It Okay If I Call You Mine	*Paul McCrane*	**TONE CALLUMINE**
Happy Together	*The Turtles*	**TONE HAPPY2GEDER**
Human	*Human League*	**TONE HUMAN**
Ms. Jackson	*Outkast*	**TONE MSJACKSON**
Music Of My Heart	*N'sync & Gloria Estefan*	**TONE MUSICHEART**
My Girl	*Westlife*	**TONE MYGIRL**
Rugrats	*TV Theme Rugrats*	**TONE RUGRATS**
Orinoco Flow	*Enya*	**TONE ORINOCO**
Wizard Of Oz (Main Theme)	*Theme from Wizard of Oz*	**TONE WIZARDOFOZ**
Mad Season	*Matchbox 20*	**TONE MADSEASON**

Top ten ring tones:

Saranggola Ni Pepe	*Celeste Lesgaspi*	**TONE SARANGGOLA**
Tell Me	*Side A*	**TONE TELLME**
Anak	*Side A*	**TONE ANAK**
So Many Questions	*Side A*	**TONE SOMANY**
Leron Leron Sinta		**TONE LERON**
Horny		**TONE HORNY**
Lady Marmalade	*Christina Aguilera*	**TONE MARMALADE**
Incomplete	*Sisqo*	**TONE INCOMPLETE**
Special Alert Tone	*Zed*	**TONE SMS**
Connecting To Internet	*Zed*	**TONE MODEM**

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:


LOGO FACES
288
LOGO RECEIVED.

Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO FACES, PIC LONELY or TONE HUMAN

Send to 288.

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Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers for selected Nokia cell phones. ₱15.00 per successful download. To get random keywords of zed logos, type in **RANDOMLOGO** and send to 288. To get random keywords of zed ring tones, type in **RANDOMTONE**. For keywords of other zed services, type in **KEYS** and send to 288.

Play **Campus Detective** and get a chance to win weekly and monthly prizes from SIEMENS Mobile. The High Scorer of the Week will win a new SIEMENS C45 mobile phone. While all registered players qualify for the monthly draw where a SIEMENS ME45 mobile phone is at stake. This contest runs from May 18 to August 18, 2002.

For a complete list of Campus Detective commands, type in **CD COM** and send to 288. For more instructions for the game, type in **CD HELP** and send to 288.

How to join zed Campus Detective:

To register, type CD REG <name/address/sex/bday(mmddyy)>

Send to 288

Await your bonus question and start playing.

SIEMENS mobile

zed

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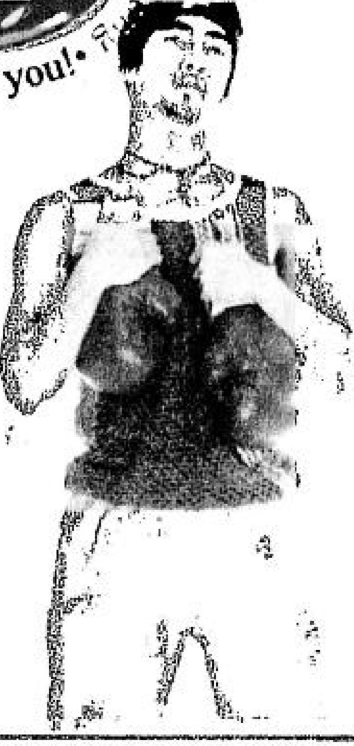
AGA-AGA, INGAY-INGAY!
On Cheryl: Fila arm band, fabric swatch top and 80's inspired peach satin skirt with black lace overlay by Paolo Raymundo

CONCEPT
AND DIRECTION:
TIM YAP

CLOTHES:
FILA BY NONI DIZA,
PAOLO RAYMUNDO,
AND MIMI SANSON
MAKE-UP:
KRUSTY OF H SALON,
RUSTAN'S 3RD LEVEL
MODELS:
JOEY MEAD, JOEL TRINIDAD,
CHERYL TANTENGCO,
AND MACKY LIM

SINGLE AND AVAILABLE.
On Joel: Striped knit shirt andpajama-inspired pants. All by Paolo Raymundo

HAPPY WITH HER MAN.
On Joey: Black tiered top, white lace mini skirt all by Mimi Sanson



READY FOR COMMITMENT.
On Macky: FILA headband, green top and mustard pants by Paolo Raymundo

ATTACHED AND HAPPY.
On Cheryl: Striped V top, red cabbage rose sash and assymetrical shirt, all by Paolo Raymundo

Lucky in love

Text and Styling by Dara David
Photos by Amanda Luym

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Tut-tut-tut. Message received. "Sure babe, I thought you'd never ask."

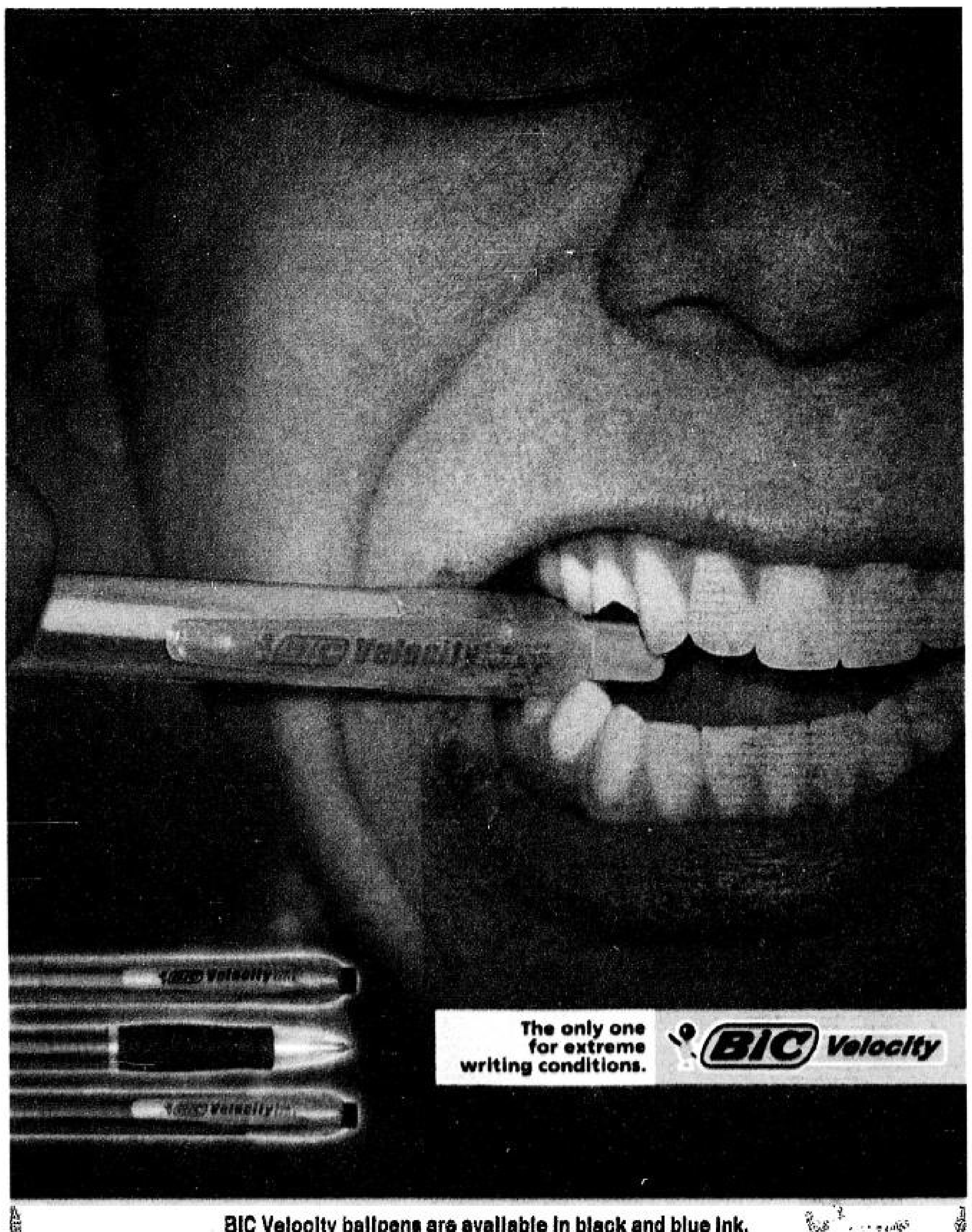
Yabba-dabba-doo.

FILA FIGHTER.
On Macky: Sun visor, wristband and jacket, all by Fila by Noni Diza. Green pants with mini socks belt by Paolo Raymundo. On Joey: Satin assymetrical top and blue striped pants by Paolo Raymundo

INGAT PO KAY KATRINA!
On Joel: Grey hat and green tie-dye pants by Paolo Raymundo. Fila sweater by Noni Diza.

"KAMI NAAAAAAHHH!!!"
On Macky: Black hat, polo shirt, green pants with crochet detail. All by Paolo Raymundo. On Cheryl: Beaded sports jersey top and striped knee pants by Paolo Raymundo. Embroidered mini skirt by Mimi Sanson

YABBA-DABBA-DO! HAPPY ENDING.
On Joel: Tuxedo-inspired silk top paired with black men's pants with sequined detail by Paolo Raymundo. On Joey: Parisian-inspired headpiece by Paolo Raymundo; Dragonfly jacket, tassled cream top and skirt all by Mimi Sanson



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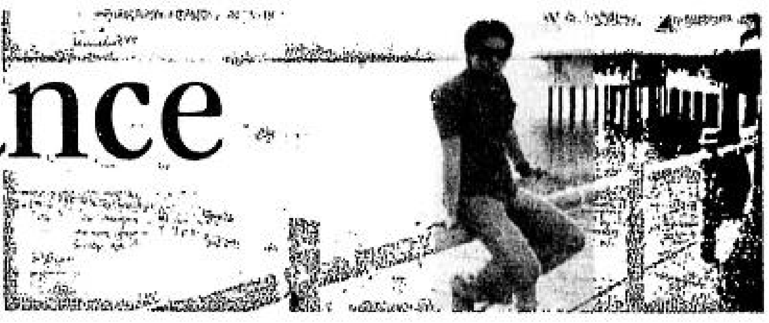


YAPARAZZI chilling out in the sunny shores of Dos Palmas
PHOTO: PAM PASTOR

By Tim Yap

DOS PALMAS. The mere mention of the resort sends either chills or humor down one's spine. I do not need to brief you on what has happened in that part of the world. When the topic of this prized province comes into the core of any conversation, one can only sigh with regret, knowing the vast resource and potential it has. Or used to have.

Despite the island's bad publicity, Palaweños continue to have pride of place

"Be careful, you look foreign," or "Don't eat too much and then drink," I would instantly receive text messages like such when I told friends that I was on a weekend vacation at Dos Palmas.

We trekked to the shores of Palawan to explore what this infamous resort had in store. We passed through long, bumpy roads before we reached our ferry. "Peace, at last," Maui, our resident rocker, said in relief as she massaged her backsides before hopping onto the speedboat.

Noisier

We were wrong, very wrong. The boat ride was even noisier. It was like a war zone with rifles spitting fire all over, dropping bombs on our ears. And after what seemed like forever of childish complaints, there was a hushed silence when we reached the destination. Our jaws dropped.

Serenity. The blue green waters danced around the white structure of a resort as the bright sky smiled on this sunny resort. We inhaled and filled our lungs with the fresh air that the island breathed. Now this was peace. I stretched my arms and lay down and embraced the beach's white, powdery sand.

Over lunch, Globe's Menchie Osial introduced us to a very surprisingly cheerful girl. "Hey guys, this is Lyba Godio, the PR manager of Dos Palmas." "Resident manager," she quickly corrected her in a friendly tone. We looked at her with a pained look. "Awww, what a job this lady has." We thought to ourselves over a delicious lunch of fresh seafood.

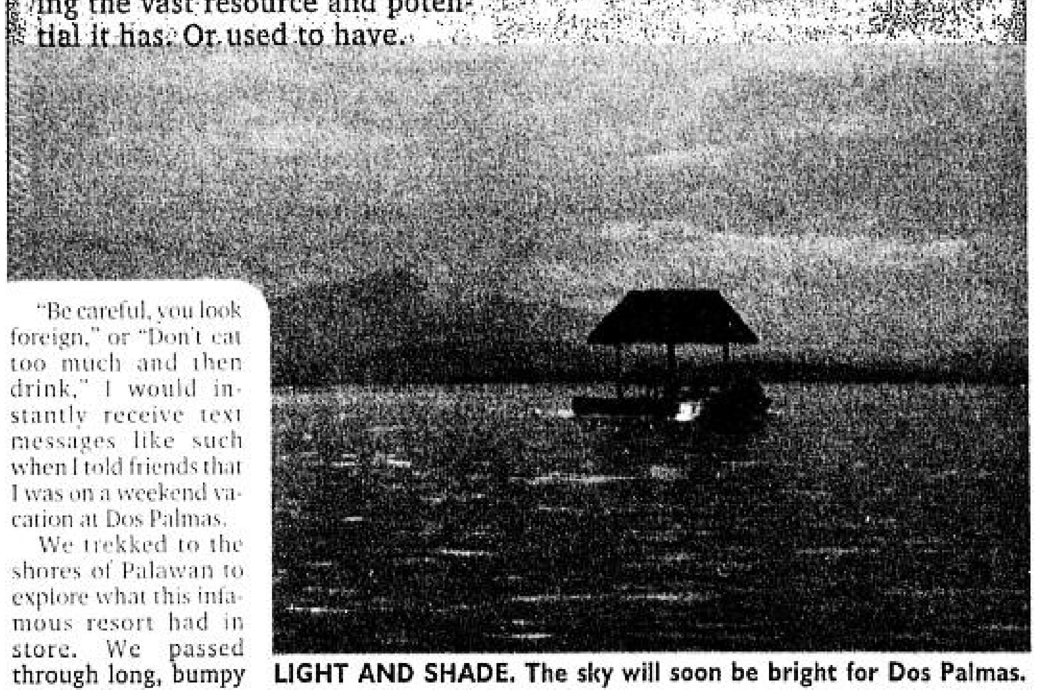
Sincere smiles

Upon leaving the resort, Lyba, the guards and other staff members waved at us, "Thank you, please come again," they all said with sincere smiles, happy with the new visitors who had braved their island resort despite bad publicity and the threat of danger. They loved their jobs, and it showed in their warmth and hospitality.

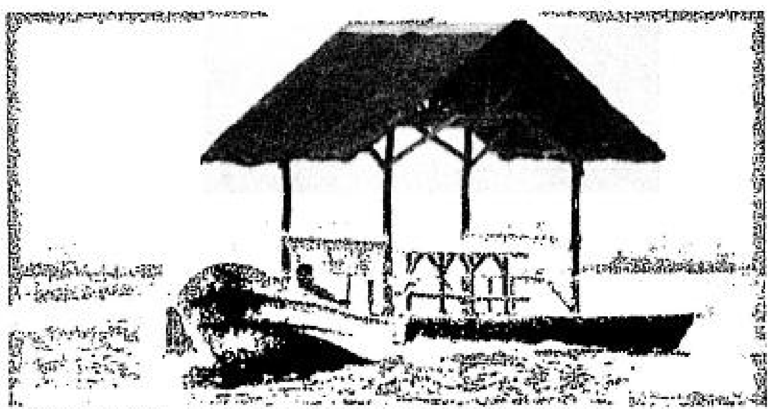
It is so easy to turn a blind eye on what is happening in that part of the country. But when you get there and actually see the place, when you admire its beauty and interact with the island's people, you'll know we have something beautiful to be proud of.

Palaweños have this real pride of place that people here in Manila do not have much of. Unlike other provinces that have other industries to depend on, Palawan relies a lot on tourism industry to survive. When the terrorists hit the spot, when a young actor died on this island, the Palaweños also lost their lives amid the tumult.

"This will pass," our driver told me, his eyes full of hope despite the darkness that once surrounded their land.



LIGHT AND SHADE. The sky will soon be bright for Dos Palmas.
PHOTO: PAM PASTOR



LONELY ISLE. Peace and quiet this side of Palawan
PHOTO: JONES CAMPOS

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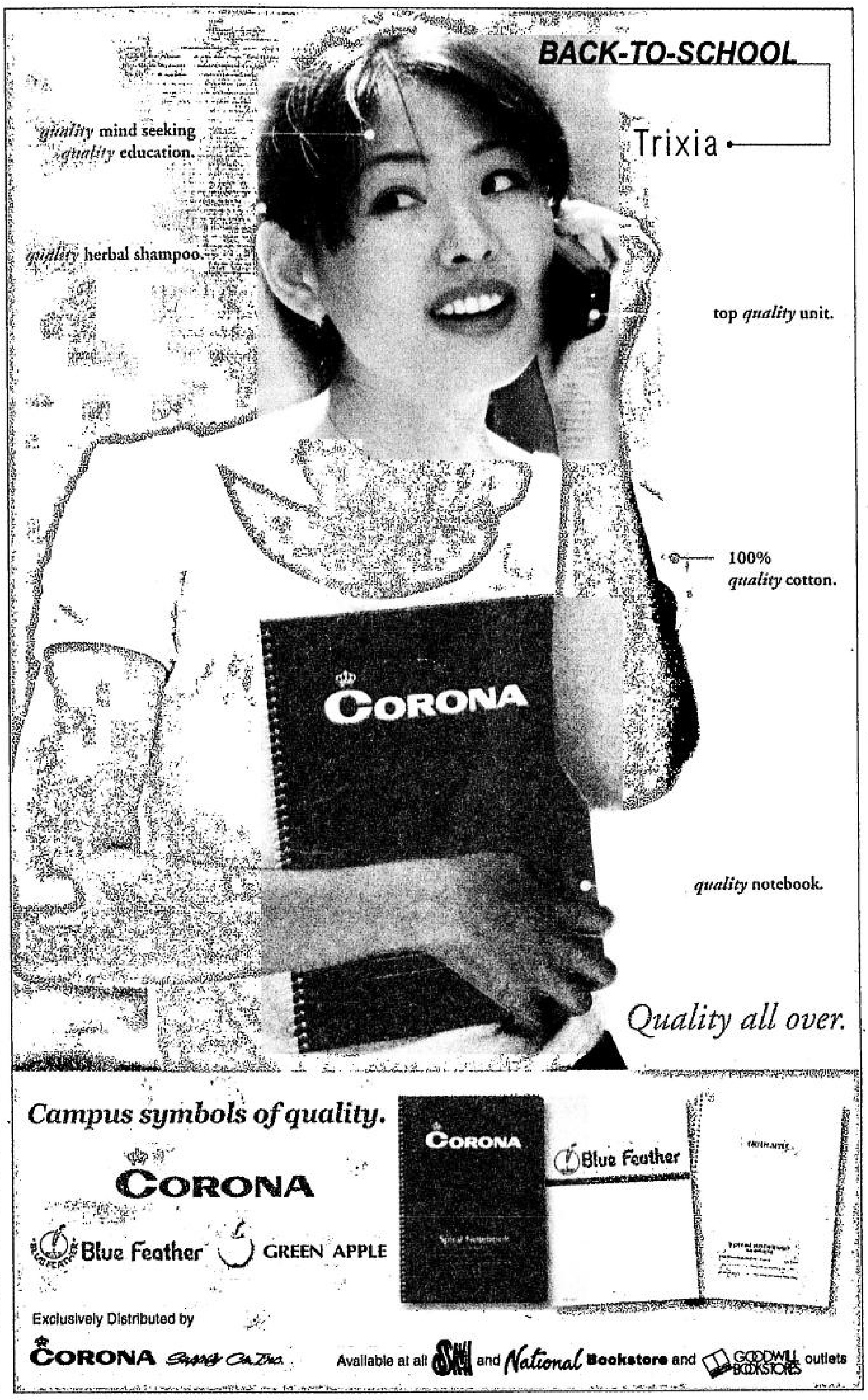

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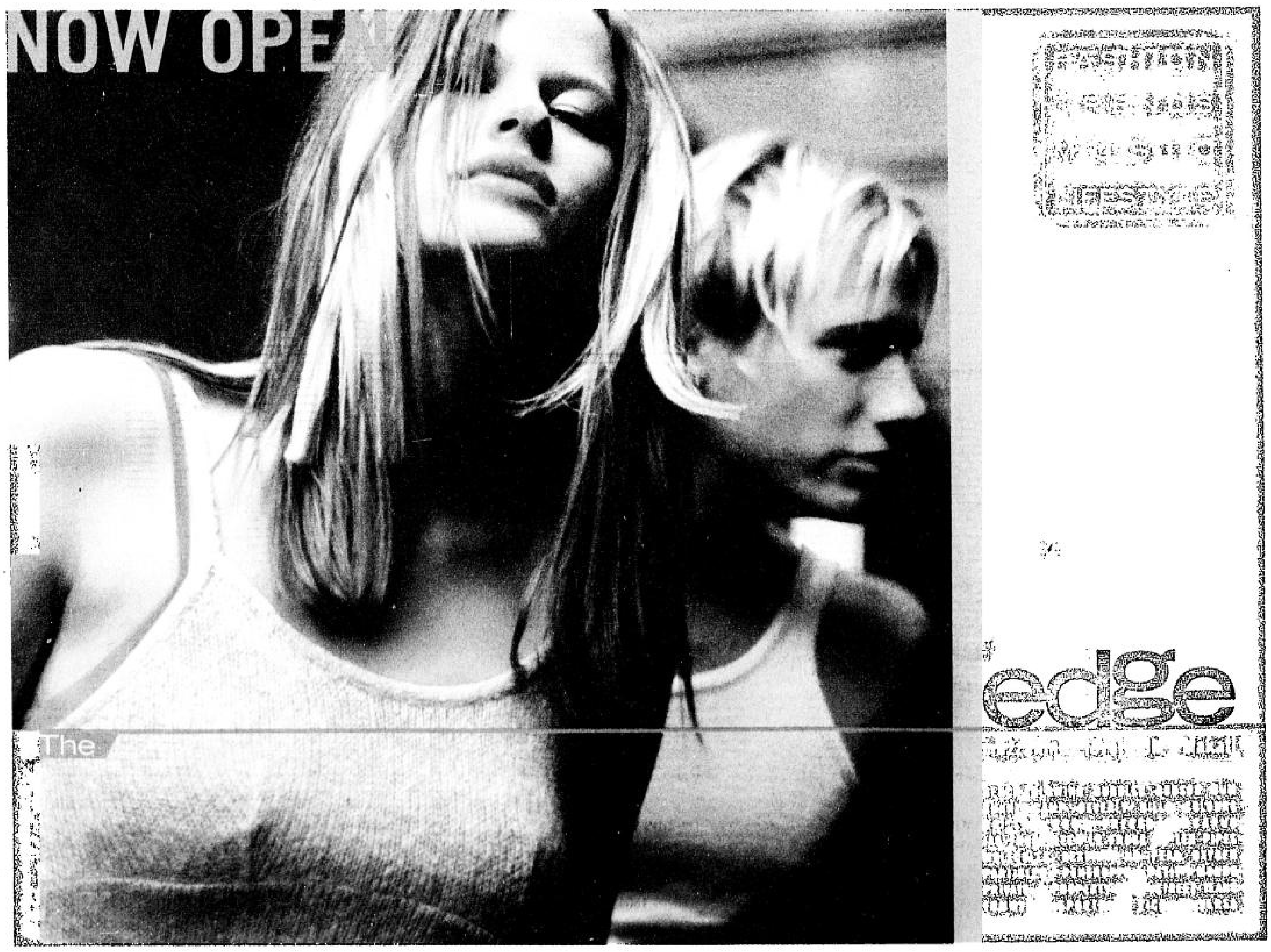


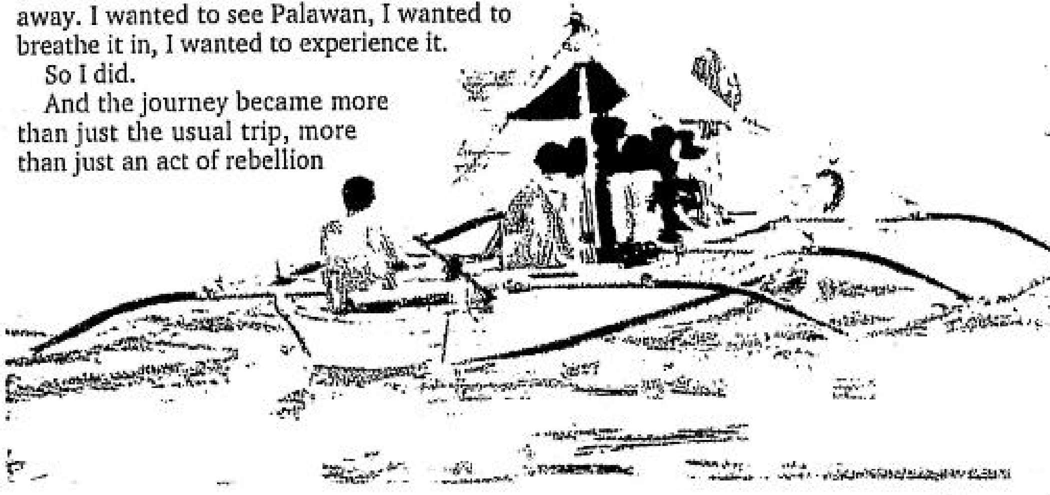
'Fear Factor,' Palawan-style

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jones Campos

MY MOTHER refused to let me go. She balked the moment she heard the word "Palawan." Like most people, the word filled her head with images of bandits knocking down cottage doors and riding off with hostages, of young men dying in their sleep. But I was adamant. I knew I had to go. Unlike my mother who reveled in the security of the known, I couldn't let a place's image scare me away. I wanted to see Palawan, I wanted to breathe it in, I wanted to experience it.

So I did.

And the journey became more than just the usual trip, more than just an act of rebellion as perceived by some—Palawan became a challenge. It made me face my fears.



Challenge # 1

The bridge at Marina De Bay. After our arrival, we rested for a few hours and were soon called for lunch. But lunch wasn't as simple as sitting down and digging in; it meant walking across an ancient, too-long, rickety bridge that had no ropes or bars to hold onto for support. Oaf that I was, I held my breath the entire time I wobbled my way to the teahouse. Same thing on my way back. Then I thought, if every meal meant facing that bridge, then I would choose starving over falling into the murky waters below.

Call me a sissy, but that was not my idea of an adventure.

Hurdling the challenges makes visiting the country's last frontier even sweeter

Challenge # 2

The crocodile farm. As much as I love animals, reptiles aren't my cup of tea. So I wasn't exactly excited about spending an hour with huge, teeth-baring crocodiles. But I knew I had to look at them. A trip to Palawan without seeing the crocs would be incomplete. The fact that a cement wall was protecting us from them (or them from us) made things better. There was this really, really fat crocodile in the first cell—but unlike other animals, when it comes to reptiles, fat doesn't mean cute. It was scary. I moved on to where the others were, a few cells down. This crocodile was smaller and seemed to be less threatening. I was wrong. It suddenly lurched, jumped up and snapped its teeth at Jason, who was the nearest, and had been leaning over the cell. Jason started screaming and ending up stepping on poor Cynthia's feet. My heart was in my throat then. I walked out of the area quickly.

We soon got to a round metal structure that you could walk on, with crocodiles lurking under your feet. No thanks, I said to my companions. Someone said, "Imagine you're on 'Fear Factor.'" Nah. Too difficult to do when there was no fifty grand waiting at the end of the day.

Challenge # 3

The boat rides. I swear, if I decide to have children, they will never, never get to watch "Jaws." During all our boat rides (to and from Dos Palmas, to the Underground River, to Sabang), I kept imagining a huge shark suddenly attacking our boat. Normally, boat rides don't faze me—if the boats are reasonably big and if their motors work well. But ours were six-sitters with extremely loud, eardrum-assaulting motors. Thank God for my handy copies of Time and Newsweek.

My conversations with our boatmen didn't help, either.

Me: "*Manong, may pating ho dito?*" Boatman: "*A, siyempre.*"

They could have lied, you know.

Challenge # 4

Dos Palmas. A confession. When we left Manila, I had no idea we were going to set foot on Dos Palmas. In fact, my constant reassurance for my worried relatives and friends was, "Relax, I'm not going *there*." But when Menchie mentioned the words "Dos Palmas" on our second day, none of us hesitated. We went. And I'm glad we did.

Dos Palmas was beautiful. After lunch, the others had a blast kayaking and then we all went for a dip in the Jacuzzi. It was gorgeous —and the random hotties we saw didn't hurt either. And just in case you're wondering, we didn't feel any negative energy there.

Now if only the boat rides had been more comfortable.

Challenge # 5

The monitor lizards. Again, reptiles. I had no problem with monkeys, I adore them. But I did not like the idea of sharing breathing space with dinosaur lookalikes. Especially when I had visuals of me being eaten alive by them. So the night before, I pushed the tour guide's patience's limit by repetitively asking, "*E, manong, ilan na ho ang namatay doon?*" (His answer was a big fat zero.)

That question was forgotten the next day—because the monkeys were really, really cute and because the monitor lizards actually appeared harmless. In fact, for some reason, Jason was the one really freaked out, not me.

Challenge # 6

Snakes in the underground river. "Manong, may ahas ba dito?" I asked Ferdinand Valiente, our excellent, excellent guide (who was funny as hell) as he rowed into the cave. Bats started flying over our heads—thank God for our helmets. The cave was majestic, the rock formations awe-inspiring and soon, the bat droppings became easy to ignore. The snakes too.

Before we got out of the cave, I asked him again, "*Manong, akala ko ba may ahas dito? Wala naman pala e.*"

"*Meron. Dalawa na ang nadaanan natin.*"

"*E ba't di mo sinabi?*"

"*E sabi mo* very wrong *e.*"

This was one tour guide I could hire over and over again.

Challenge # 7

Not being connected. I left Manila nervously—four days without e-mail, without blogging. How would I survive? Tim was right, us city kids are extremely spoiled.

But I lived without computer access during our entire stay. And this produced good results—I have actually learned to moderate my Internet use since our Palawan trip.

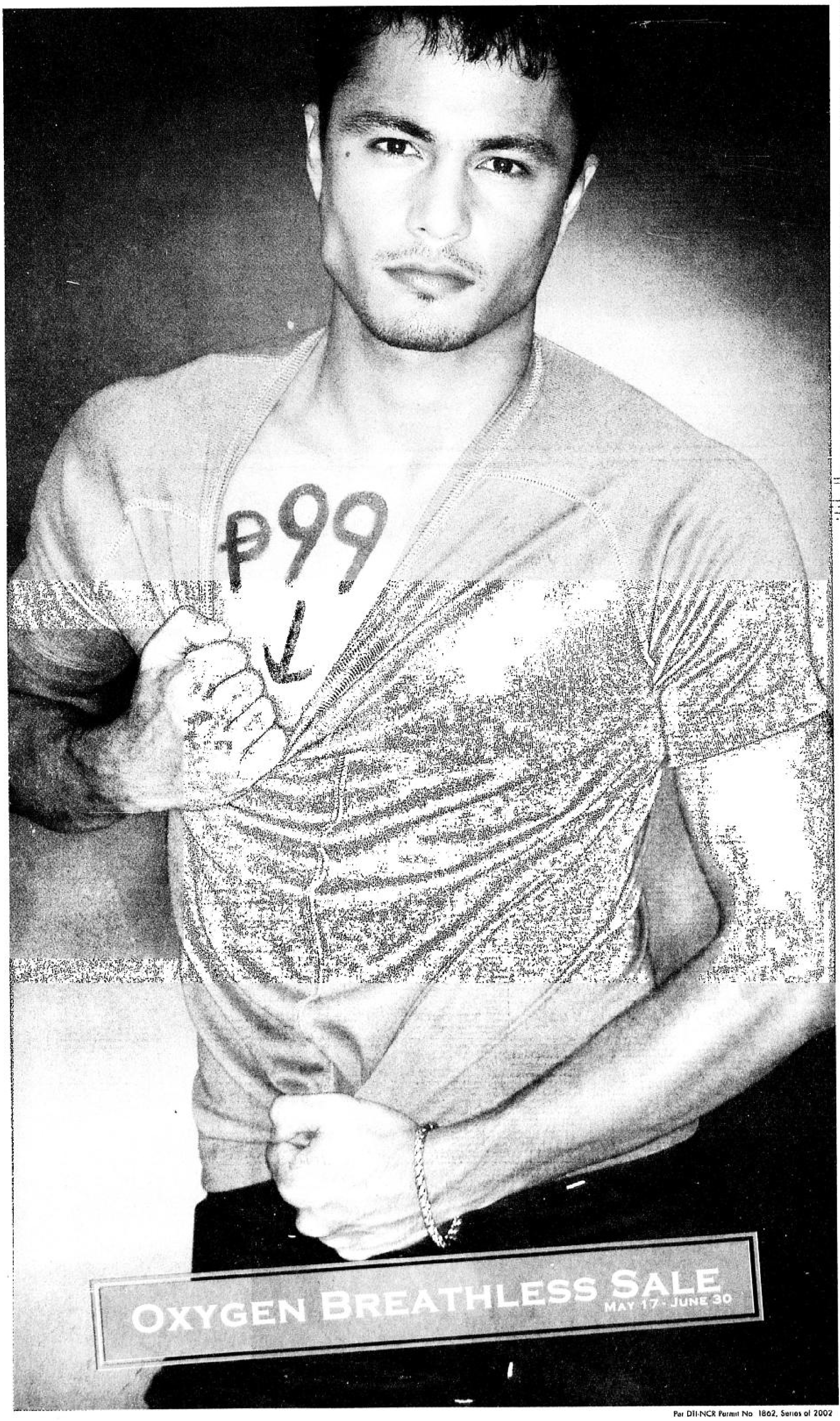
Challenge # 8

Not writing. Unlike what I did during my previous trips, I refrained from keeping a journal during the four days we were in Palawan. I wanted to cherish every experience without thinking of how I would write about it. I wanted to actually live rather than be an observer constantly jotting down notes. I wanted to record everything in my head and my heart rather than on paper.

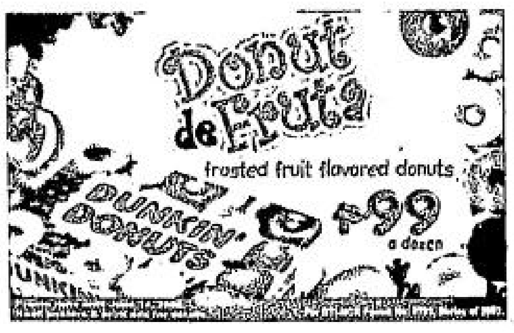
That was exactly what I did.

I will always remember Palawan with fondness. And I will look at the people scared off by bad publicity with pity. They are missing out on the beauty that is Palawan.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



Per DII-NCR Permit No 1862, Series of 2002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Into the bat cave

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jones Campos

"*MAGANDA doon. Magugustuhan nyo doon.*" We were eating in a restaurant when the waitress overheard us planning for the next day.

Our destination: the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, the famous underground river, reportedly the longest in the world.

There was no problem until we heard someone mention *bayawak*—those odd-looking creatures that seem to have time-traveled from the epoch of the dinosaurs. Okay, so they're lizards, but not exactly the type that can be found on your bedroom ceiling. These creatures grow at an average of six feet in length. And they climb trees. And they approach humans!

"Friendly *naman po sila*," the waitress told us when she saw fear creeping into our faces.

"*Hindi ba sila nangangain ng tao?*" Pam wanted to be sure.

I decided to play it cool and pretended that I loved all animals in the manner of Jack Hanna. This despite the fact that I once hurled an iguana to a wall when a classmate thought it was cute to place it on my shoulder.

We were also informed that, aside from the monitor lizards (the *bayawak*), we were also going to encounter monkeys that

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NOT Batman, but monkey.

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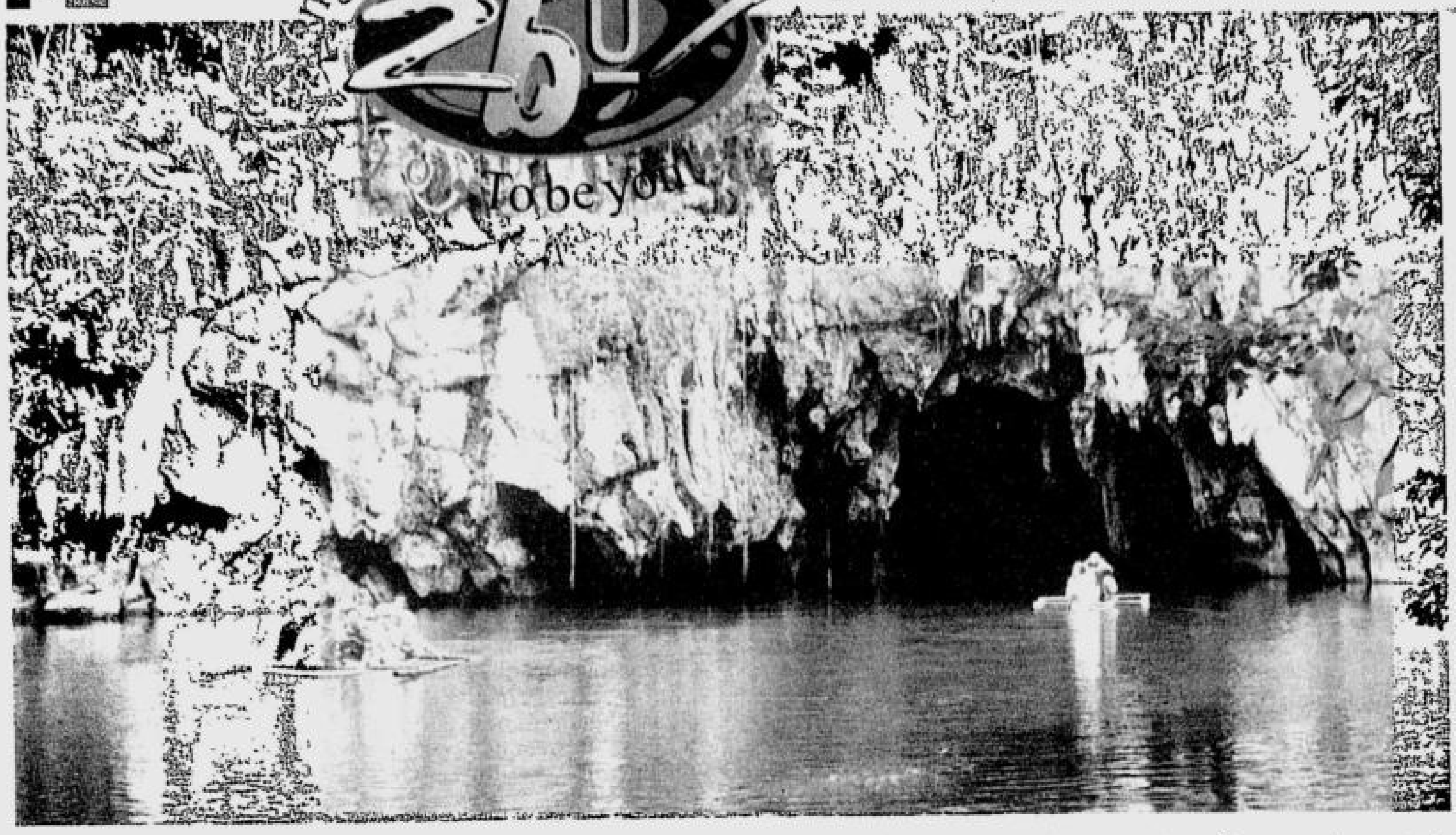


ENTRY to God's mystical wonder (at left). The trip's official photographer, Globe's Jones Campos, comes face to face with a *bayawak* (above).

Into the bat cave

From page E1

snatched cellphones, cameras, any gadgets. Ugh.

I don't like monkeys. They stare at me as if they see themselves in me.

Teeming with creatures

The Underground River on the west coast of Palawan is a 2½-hour drive from Puerto Princesa. For the first hour, the road is paved. For the next hour or so, prepare for your worst nightmare.

Upon arriving at Sabang port (sort of), you take a 15-minute *banca* ride. Everything about this island spells provincial (except for those souvenir stalls), from its people to the sight and smell of the place.

It was here that I felt I was truly in Palawan, and felt good about it. Puerto Princesa could be anywhere between Cebu and Davao City, but Sabang is uniquely Palawan.

It was sweltering noon when the six of us finally reached the shores of the park, with its Marquesan look-alike view, limestone formations and all.

I looked to my left, then to my right, up the trees, down the entire coastline—hurrah! There were no *bayawaks*. No monkeys either.

We headed to the canopy section to take our lunch. While we were filing on the walkway, some gray-greenish thing was crawling near the tables. And there was another a few feet away. And yet another. The place was crawling with monitor lizards.

My previously *bayawak*-fearing colleagues suddenly turned into perky, animal-loving citizens. ("*Ay, ang* cute!", "O, picture-picture!", "Psst, come here, come here!")

I tried hard to like the creatures, really. But when our guide said they were capable of hitting you with their tails, I gave up.

The monkeys could be found everywhere, sometimes side by side with the lizards. Somehow they were more entertaining, with their attempts to steal food from the picnic tables, especially bananas. I felt for them. They seemed like scavengers in their own homes, having to steal food to feed themselves.

Mesmerizing caves

About an hour later, we started our tour of the underground river system. Entering the mouth of the cave, I felt like Indiana Jones; a slightly cowardly Indiana Jones. We were expecting bats throughout the 45-minute trip, lunging at us, even peeing at us. Our hard caps provided protection, but we still had our arms and legs to think of, too.

A school of fish greeted our entry, slowly swimming away from our boat like the gentle breeze. I visualized it as my entry to heaven. Until the pungent smell of bat droppings brought me back to reality.

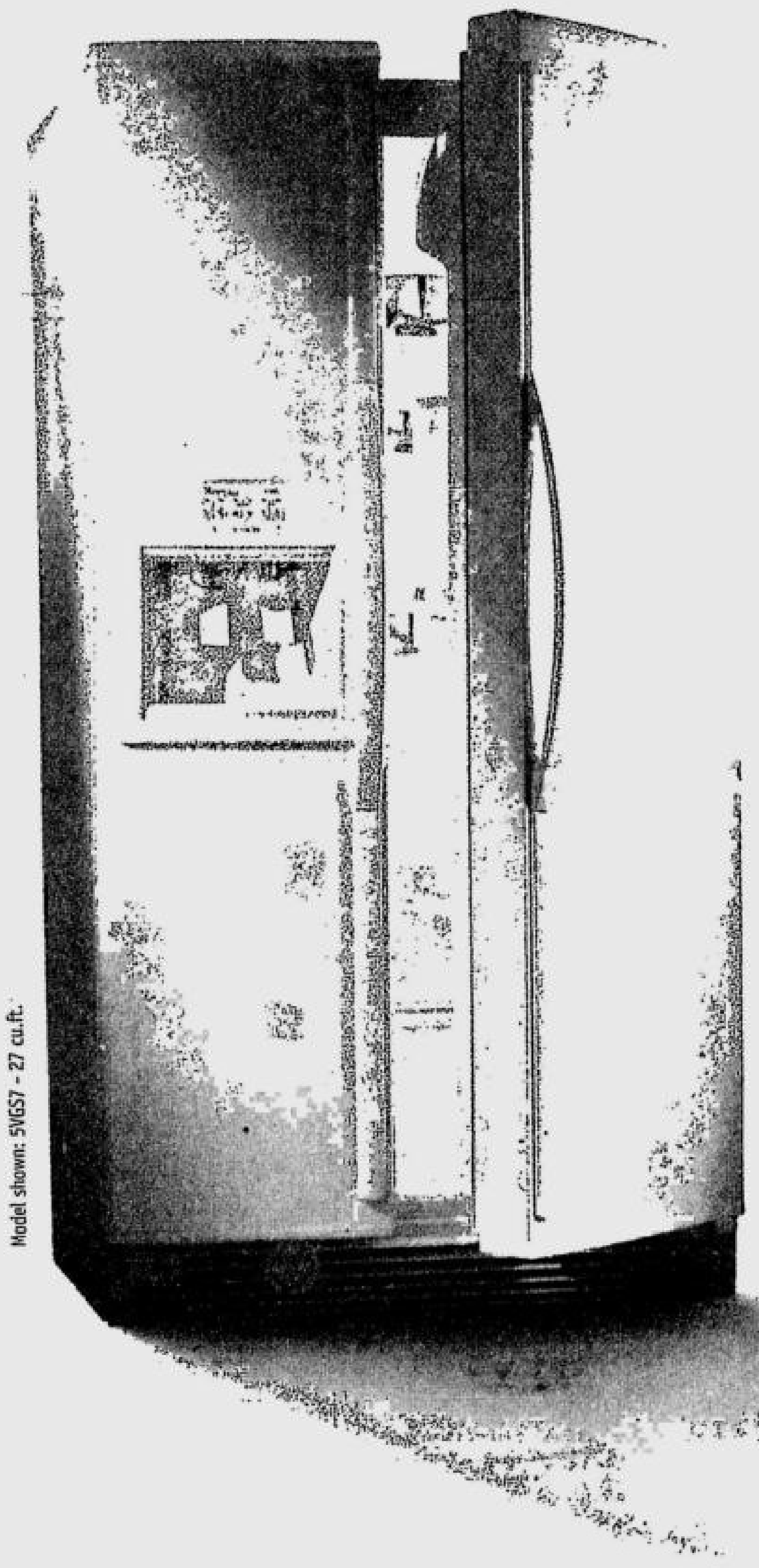
Ferdinand Valiente, our tour guide, gave us a background on this Unesco World Heritage Site. He pointed to us the various stalactite and stalagmite formations, giving them names. There was this "grocery" section with "vegetables" and "fruits" formations.

There was a "nude lady," too. "You know what her name is?" Ferdinand asked. "Sharon Stone." Hmm...

There was also a section called "the cathedral," because of the magnitude and height of its walls, where you could see lookalikes of the Holy Family, the Three Kings and some angels.

Some 30 minutes later, we turned around and made our way to the exit. Ferdinand informed us that if we were to continue, it'd take us about two days before we would see the light of day.

On our way out, we saw some rather heartbreaking things on the wall. Graffiti! Tourists have vandalized that rock face that thousands of years of natural processes have formed. May they all go bald!



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Going *wild* in Pa

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent
Photos byJones Campos

HOW many people got on board the Titanic and lived to tell the tale? How many people have seen the breathtaking beauty that is the Marquesan Islands? And how many people have walked among crocodiles to gather eggs without getting their leg bitten off (and sans that annoying Steve Irving and his croc tales)?

Palawan is like a National Geographic program come to life. A walk in the forest could mean close encounters with monkeys, monitor lizards, chameleons and snakes. Caves offer the chance to row through an underground river that could take you three days to negotiate. A mangrove tour brings sights of mud-flipping fish and poisonous mangrove snakes.

Although we missed out on the wonderful safari adventure on Calauit island, our stay in Puerto Princesa showed us more wildlife than found in several places put together..After all, this is one of the few places in the country that still boasts of some of the very best species that Mother Nature nurtures.

The Crocodile Farming Institute

Founded in 1987 with the help of the government of Japan, the Crocodile Farming Institute's "wards" grew from 100 to 4,000. The largest and longest croc they ever had, a male, is on display in the lobby, although it is now merely a skeleton of its former formidable self.

We began the tour with a briefing on the history of the place and some other boring stuff. Then we were ushered into a room displaying numerous photographs —crocs being captured, crocs slinking away in the mud, croc eggs. Tools used in capturing the reptiles were also on exhibit. I couldn't help but cringe at the thought of the animals being captured by gigantic nets and poked by a pointed instrument to keep them and prevent them from escaping. I felt uncomfortable especially since I have listened to my friends at PAWS talk about how cruel marine parks and institutions that kept wildlife in captivity were.

We headed over to where the crocs were being kept. Pam spotted what we thought was a chameleon— little lizard with a long tail, sitting on a plant's stem, half of its body taking on the color of the foliage.

The institute keeps crocs with health problems in separate cells, with very little space for move around. One crocodile in the "isolation ward" was missing its tail.

We proceeded to a wooden bridge that circled a makeshift waterhole. About 500 crocs stayed there. Some opted to stay covered by the murky water while the others basked in the sun, bared their teeth and made sudden movements that had several of the tourists screaming.

"Chicken," Bridget, our tour guide, replied when I asked her what they fed the crocs. "They're so much more active at night. During the day they usually just sleep."

Croc's eggs at the institute are incubated, so scientists can study the species and determine how crocs will turn out. Dark-ended eggs with dark bands are deemed fertile. Apparently, a crocodile's aggressiveness can be determined even before it gets out of its shell.

I asked Bridget how they collected the eggs. Did they separate the females from the males after they mate?

"[The scientists] go down there and get the eggs themselves," she said. "And yes, almost everyone here has been bitten once or twice. It's part of the job."

The institute also keeps bearcats in small cages. On our way back to the main lobby, we noticed that the chameleon was still on the plant, but its whole body had already turned green.

I asked Bridget where the crocs came from.

"We were doing research on mangrove," she said. I then asked if they planned to release the crocodiles back into the wild, since the place was getting overcrowded.

"We've spoken to a bunch of land owners and we've seen some places we want to release them to," she said. "But it's difficult...I mean, who would want a crocodile roaming around your area, right?" I heard later a story about a crocodile wandering into a village and devouring the chickens in the backyard.

On the way back to the van I spotted two teenage boys walking towards the men's room. They were holding the lizard/chameleon by its tail. I asked what they were going to do with it.

"Give it as a gift," one of them said, shrugging. The other asked if I wanted it. I told them to put it back where they found it.

One of them nonchalantly walked to the parking lot and placed it on one of the trees. Great. And if that thing crawled down to the ground and got run over by a car?

It was obvious to me that the people went to the institute just to gawk at fierce creatures covered in mud...not to learn about them.

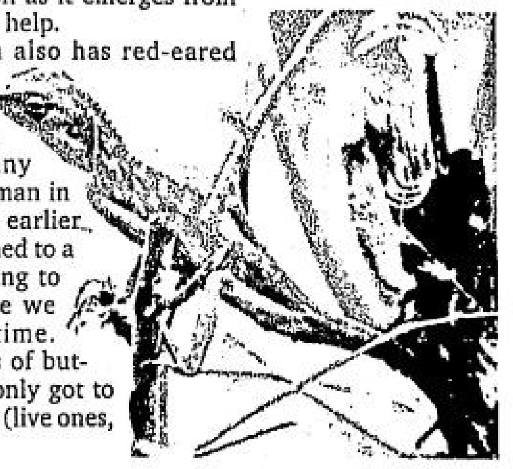
Butterfly Farm

Opened in 1998, the Butterfly Farm has more than 200 species, although the actual population really depends on the types of bugs that live there every season.

The place has no tour guide but a video clip is shown before guests enter the small garden. The clip shows how a butterfly is formed, the different stages it undergoes, and the mandatory safety precautions. "Watch your step. You might step on a butterfly," the narrator warned.

I was never a fan of caterpillars, and I'm happy to say I didn't spot one. Although I must have spotted only three different kinds of butterflies, there were plenty of pretty plants in the garden. Apparently the butterflies were not inclined to mount a show during our visit as even a small bird bath with hibiscus set for them was empty.

Farm founder Roy Rodriguez, who often climbed mountains, developed a passion for butterflies and decided to share his love with other people. After observing the insects, he decided to propagate plants that they fed on in the farm. Although a butterfly's life span is only about two weeks, the many cocoons lined up by the wall gave the assurance that the farm would always have a viable population of the insect. The fact that the insect is sexually mature as soon as it emerges from the cocoon is also a big help.



The Butterfly Farm also has red-eared turtles, millipedes, beetles and other kinds of bugs. We didn't get to see many kinds of butterflies (a man in the prison we went to earlier had more varieties pinned to a board that he was trying to sell), I guess because we came at a wrong time. Palawan has hundreds of butterfly species, but we only got to see about three of them (live ones, anyway).

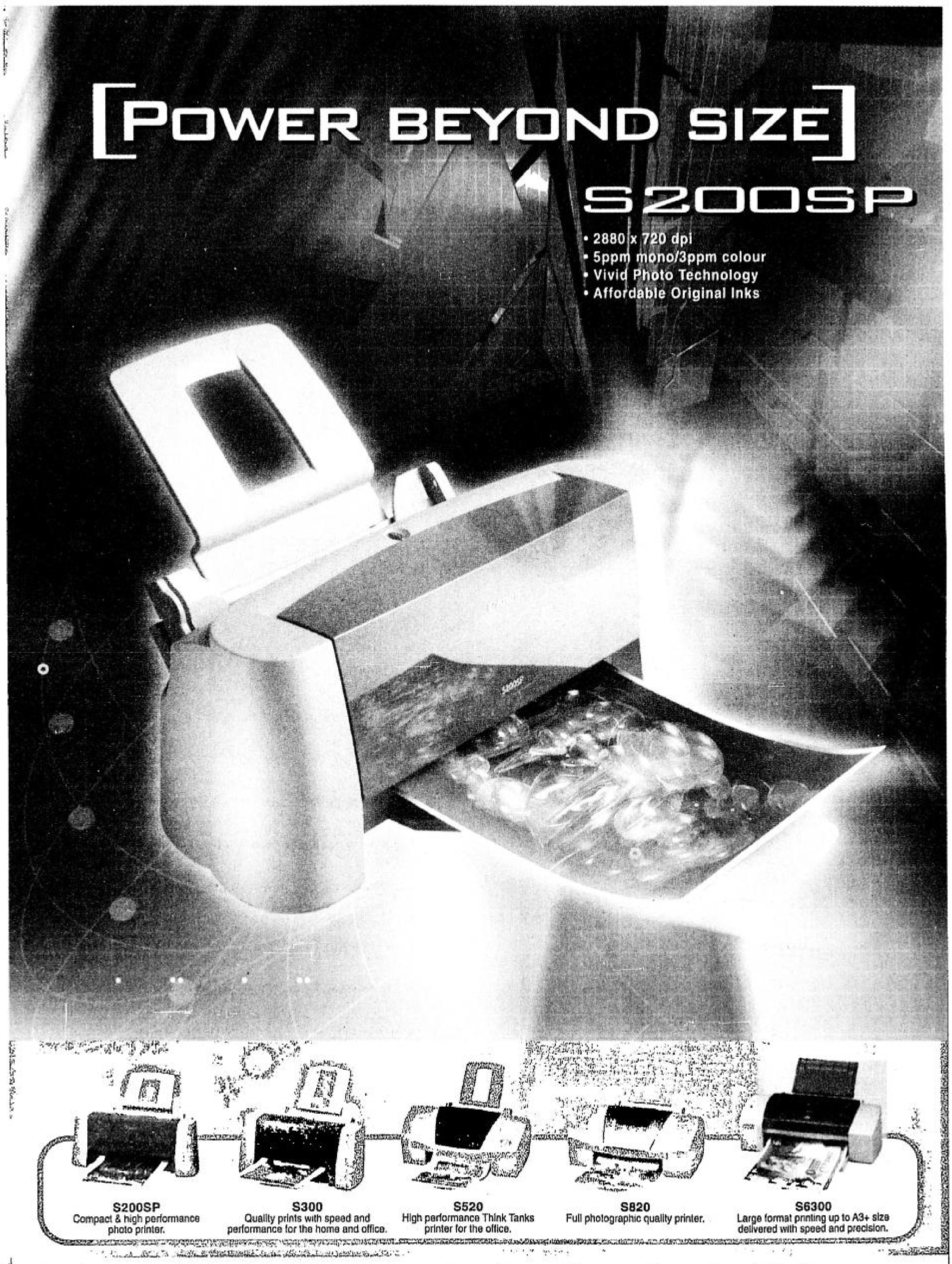
'Convict' . . .

From page E4

Godsend

On our way back from the Underground River, we stopped by Sabang Island to check out the Mangrove Conservation Project. Obviously pooped from lack of sleep and a jittery two-hour car ride in the morning, the idea of paddling along a swamp, though quite interesting, didn't appeal to me. But the shoreline that greeted us was well worth the trip. The stop was a godsend. The stretch of white-sand beach in the conserved area was gorgeous. Too bad, I wasn't able to swim in it. With the stop being fortuitous, I was unable to bring a change of clothes.

Nevertheless, I got a kick out of walking along the beach despite having the unfortunate impediment of wearing cargo pants and rubber shoes. Oblivious to the fact that I was dripping wet from the waist down, I just stood on the shore making imprints of my soles. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't tempted to just swim with my clothes on. But I thought of the stares I'd get upon alighting from the van, drenched.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BATHROOM REVIEW

The worst sleuthing jobs in the world

Our resident toilet critic applies her magnifying glass on pristine Palawan's toilet habits

By Maui V. Reyes

WHEN you gotta go, you gotta go. And I think the 2bU! corps knows that during our stay in Palawan, yours truly probably had the most number of bathroom trips than anyone. Not that I'm fond of locking myself in enclosed spaces to admire the fine architectural designs of lavatories. But in Palawan I had to compare the bathrooms. Here are some of them.

Disclaimer: Pam made me do this. I swear.

Marina de Bay

Gist: The moment I stepped into the bathroom, flashes of a dingy little hotel that we almost stayed in at Boracay came into mind. A shower curtain separated the showerhead from the toilet, and, as Jason put it, the mirror "makes you look uglier than you already are."

Facilities: Can you say "hand me my Charmine?"

Over-all rating: 4 out of 10. We were glad to be out of that place by nightfall.

Hotel Fleuris, Room 307

Gist: A four-star hotel with hot and cold water. This had Pam screaming for joy. Although lacking the many essential bathroom freebies (you know, the kind you stuff in your bag, knowing it will be replenished the next day, like shampoo, soap, shower caps), the bathroom was spacious enough to move around in.

Facilities: Tons of towels available, although room service didn't really gather up the towels the next day to be washed. A hair dryer would have been highly appreciated, as well.

Over-all rating: 8 out of 10. I almost finished the novel I was reading in there.

Hotel Fleuris Coffee Shop

Gist: Located at the right at the back of the restaurant, the little girls' room was a dirtier version of their hotel room water closet. It also made me ponder on a question that had been running in my head ever since I learned how to go potty on my own: Why do people have to *stand* on the toilet seat instead of squat?

Facilities: They usually ran out of toilet paper. The soap machine needed to be replenished.

Over-all rating: 6 out of 10.

Puerto Princessa Subterranean River National Park

Gist: Found near the picnic area.

Facilities: I would like to guess water ran there.

Over-all rating: 3 out of 10. I didn't dare go more than two feet near that place. I could see the two wasps flying inside from a mile away.

Dos Palmas Resort's Restaurant

Gist: This one had stalls. There was this funky smell. No, Sherlock, it was not sea water. Although generally clean, it was dimly lit. From a five-star resort, I expected more.

Facilities: They didn't have automatic-hand dryer, but they did have those paper towels that I loved pulling. Soap was also handy, but some stalls lacked some stock of TP.

Over-all rating: 7 out of 10. I never was a fan of public lavatories.

Some pay-per-use bathroom on the road

Gist: Part of our two-hour drive to the underground river, we stopped by this little public washroom. We had to pay five bucks to use it, and for a bathroom smack in the middle of nowhere, it was quite clean.

Facilities: Surprisingly, toilet paper was available. I didn't see if they had soap, though—that's what Wet Ones in your backpack are for.

Over-all rating: 7 out of 10. Considering that it's in a remote place, and it's cleaner than gas station washrooms in the metro, believe me.

A camp in Sabang

Gist: I didn't want to use the public little girls' room, so we made the owners open a cottage for us to use the facilities. It's the infamous toilet bowl I see at every province I go to...must I describe what it looks like?

Facilities: No toilet paper, and they ran out of water.

Over-all rating: 3 out of 10. Don't tell me you want a detailed explanation.

A run-down public toilet in the middle of nowhere

Gist: On our way back from the underground river, we stopped at this little structure that the town folk liked to call a bathroom.

Facilities: No TP, no light, no lock on the door. Enough said.

Over-all rating: 1.5 out of 10. Although I would gladly take this lavatory over a porta-potty at a concert, I'd still try to hold myself until I reached the hotel, thank you very much.

X's...to ensure you'll be able to digest your food well, we decided not to print pictures of the lavatories.

E-mail the sick author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com

'Convict' for a day in Palawan

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN asked to join 2bU!'s outing in Palawan, I didn't exactly welcome the prospect of making a trip to the prison.

The images of white-sand beaches and skimpy bikinis quickly dissolved as I read the itinerary for the day. "A penal colony? This can't be right!" The beautiful images of a tropical paradise turned into scenes from countless prison movies. I started contemplating what I would do in case of a jailbreak. A bit extreme I know, but I had never set foot on a prison before.

Looking at the list of planned activities, I theorized that the first day must have been meant to freak us out as a visit to the Crocodile Farm preceded our trip to the Iwahig Penal Colony. And with Jason's close encounter with the leaping crocodile, I would say it worked.

As we headed for the colony, which our guide repeatedly said was the largest open prison in the Philippines, we were told not to take pictures. And I saw the logic behind it. Even if it were allowed and I was organized enough to remember bringing a camera, I'd probably pass.

It was a prison. The whole idea behind its existence was to torment its inhabitants. I found it a bit insensitive to act like tourists around the inmates as they counted the days to freedom.

'Grade school' prison

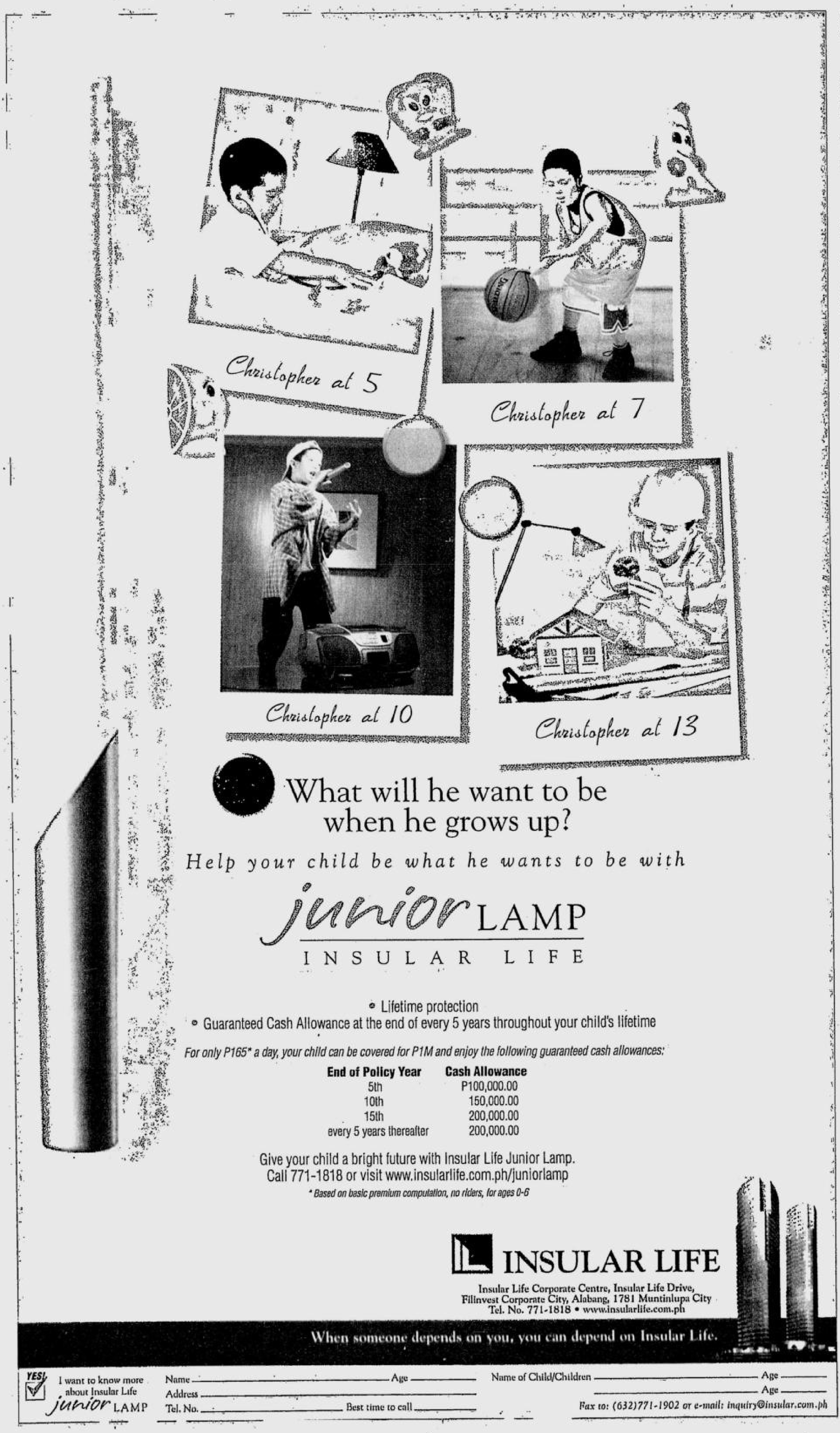
Despite my reluctance, we traversed the road that led us inside. As we passed some straw houses, our guide told us that the inmates were required to wear ID cards to distinguish them from employees and visitors. Which, eerily, reminded me of grade school.

With inmates waving at us as we passed by, I thought the place wasn't half bad. The prisoners were surprisingly courteous, not the tattoo-laden big guys who would call each other "kosa" as I had I envisioned.

The protocol inside the prison fascinated me. From what I gathered, only inmates with about a three-year sentence could be put in Iwahig. Every prisoner underwent a six-month "gestation" period in maximum security before being promoted to minimum security. Minimum security inmates had the freedom to roam around the prison, in some instances with the whole family in tow. As punishment, erring inmates got stripped of minimum security status and were brought back to maximum security.

Our visit was a bit limited, most of it spent on the penal colony's gift shop. Though I found the idea of a souvenir shop situated inside a prison a bit weird, I bought a few stuff since it would help with the prisoners' finances.

'CONVICT'/ p.E3



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